

# Havant War Memorial Hospital



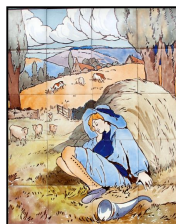
Ding Dong Bell  
Pussy's in the Well



Here we go gathering  
Nuts in May



Little Bo-Peep  
has lost her Sheep



Little Boy Blue  
Come blow up your horn



Little Jack Horner  
sat in a Corner



Little Miss Muffet  
sat on a tuffet



Mary, Mary,  
quite contrary



Old King Cole  
was a merry old Soul



Old Mother Hubbard  
went to the Cupboard



See - Saw  
Margery Daw

## Havant Joint District Hospital (Infectious Diseases Hospital)

by Robert West

## The History of Havant War Memorial Hospital

by Dr. Giles Maskell – September 1971

## Havant War Memorial Hospital Minutes

Abstracted by Ann Griffiths

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# Havant Joint District Hospital (Infectious Diseases Hospital) Robert West



Main entrance and medical staff accommodation with hospital at the rear.

The Havant Joint District Hospital (Infectious Diseases Hospital) was in existence for only just over 40 years – from 1894 to 1936 – and was located south of the Portsmouth to Chichester railway line and west of Park Road North, where the Central Retail Park now stands.

The first known provision for isolating infectious disease cases in Havant was the so-called 'Pest House' at Stockheath. This was a cottage on the western side of the heath which, together with some adjoining land, was acquired by the Havant Union in 1858 (initially rented but later purchased outright) *for the reception of smallpox and other patients.*<sup>1</sup> This news had obviously not been conveyed to the Poor Law Board in London, however, for in November 1859 they wrote to the Guardians to complain about the lack of provision for such cases and cited the example of one George Loton who, it was claimed, had been kept in the workhouse whilst infected. The Guardians

resolved that they would write to the board, informing them of the Stockheath house, and that, in any case, 'George Loton is dead'.<sup>2</sup>

This is the only instance recorded in the Guardians' minutes of the Stockheath house being used, but there must surely have been others because, in June 1876, it was decided to sell the Stockheath property and erect new facilities on a piece of land adjoining the northern end of the workhouse garden. (The garden occupied the site now used by the Fire Station in Park Way). Just over one acre of land was purchased by the Workhouse Master, James Weeks, for the purpose.

By 1879 plans had been drawn up for a building to be erected (to the designs of Portsmouth architect Alfred Hudson) and a loan of £1,000 had been arranged to pay for it. Not everyone, however, was in agreement, for one of the Guardians, Mr. Hipkin, put forward a motion that *seeing that no case of fever had occurred for the last ten years a fever hospital was not necessary*.<sup>3</sup>

This was, however, firmly rejected.

By the end of 1880 it was reported that the new building was *finished and ready for the reception of patients*<sup>4</sup> but although it was invariably referred to as a hospital it was in reality no more than an isolation unit, no different essentially to the old Stockheath 'Pest House', with a piped water supply, but no gas, and without any dedicated staff, medical or otherwise. As part of the union workhouse it should really have been for the use of pauper patients only, but it is clear that it was also taking in non-paupers, most notably the union's own Relieving Officer, Edward Bryan, who contracted smallpox in June 1883. In fact the summer and autumn of that year must have seen a mini-epidemic of that disease in Havant, for the workhouse nurse, Nurse Anderson, was also struck down, and three nurses had to be hired from the Workhouse Infirmary Nurses Association to deal with the smallpox cases.<sup>5</sup>

Of all the infectious diseases there is no doubt that smallpox was the most feared, not only because of its high mortality rate but also because of the scars that it so often left upon its survivors. It had made its first appearance – at least in its most virulent form – in the late 17th century, not long after the final elimination of the plague, and proved a scourge throughout the 18th and most of the 19th century. It first appears to have seriously struck Havant

in 1723, when it was reported that there had been 264 cases and no less than 61 deaths<sup>6</sup> and returned in 1821 when a major outbreak in Chichester spread first to Bosham and then to the Havant area.<sup>7</sup>

Its gradual elimination from the mid-19th century onwards (it ceased to be endemic in Britain in 1908) was the result of increasingly widespread vaccination, with – eventually – the compulsory vaccination of all infants. But attempts to combat the disease initially through inoculation had been taking place since the 1720s and in the 1770s the Havant surgeon William Mant was offering to inoculate patients for a fee of two guineas (£2.10p).<sup>8</sup>

Not that such measures were universally approved, even when they were shown to be effective. An anti-vaccination movement began in 1874 and as late as 1896 a National Anti-Vaccination League was formed. Whether the then Chairman of the Havant Union Board of Guardians, Francis Foster, was a member is uncertain, but he was most definitely not a supporter, and was prosecuted more than once for failing to have his children immunised. In the course of a lively debate on the topic at a meeting of the Guardians in May 1896 he declared that:

*Whatever resolution the Board passed he should act as he liked with his own children. He had seen cases resulting from vaccination which were quite as loathsome as smallpox.*<sup>9</sup>

There was in fact a national smallpox epidemic at the time (one of the last although a final outbreak occurred in 1901-2) and although Havant seems to have been spared Emsworth was not, for an infected tramp staying at a lodging house in the Hermitage passed the disease on to at least three other people. As a result people in Emsworth were re-vaccinated, a tent was set up on Westbourne Common for the reception of patients and the Westbourne Union made immediate plans to erect their own Isolation Hospital.

The fact that non-pauper patients in the 1880s were being admitted into the Havant workhouse facility eventually came to the notice of the Local Government Board who, in August 1887 wrote to the Guardians emphasising the isolation unit was:

*Only legally available for the treatment of destitute persons and that every person sent there becomes a pauper and must be attended to by the Medical Officer of the Workhouse.*<sup>10</sup>

Initially the Guardians proposed that the Isolation building should be transferred to the Havant Rural Sanitary Authority:

*For the use of the inhabitants of the Havant Union including the Urban Sanitary Authority.*<sup>11</sup>

who would also contribute towards the running costs.

But eventually it was decided that a completely new authority, the Havant Joint Hospital Board, should be set up comprised of delegates from the Havant Urban and Rural Sanitary Authorities. (After 1895 these became Havant Urban District Council, Havant Rural District Council and a totally new creation Warblington Urban District Council.) There seems, however, to have been some considerable delay in establishing the new authority – much to the exasperation of the Local Government Board – and it only finally came into existence in February 1893.

Unfortunately the records of the meeting of the Board survive only from 1924 to 1932, but one of its very first decisions must have been the radical one to replace the workhouse facility (which had only been in existence for 13 years) with a brand new purpose built isolation hospital, for by early July 1893 tenders were being put out for its construction. By the end of the month the tender of George Stallard of £1,896 for the erection of hospital wards, administration block and nurses' accommodation block (to the designs of Portsmouth architect Charles Vernon-Inkpen) had been accepted. There were also separate contracts for the erection of a boundary wall (won by S. Rogers at £28 12s.) and the laying of a concrete area of 70ft x 30ft for the erection of tents in the event of an epidemic (also won by Rogers at £52).<sup>14</sup>

It was erected on the site of the old workhouse isolation block, although some extra land was purchased to accommodate the more extensive complex of buildings as well as a garden.

There is no record of the exact date of the opening of the hospital, but it must have been sometime in late August or early September 1894, since at the beginning of August the tenders of W. Leng and J. Mosdell for the furnishing of the board room and administrative block had been accepted, whilst at the end of September Dr. Theodore Thomson from the Local Government Board inspected the Hospital in the course of his visit to Havant to report on the state of the town's health.<sup>15</sup> He noted the existence of two wards containing a total of 16 beds, but was disappointed to find that it *had no disinfected apparatus or special preparations for cholera*.<sup>16</sup>

There were two notable things about Havant's brand new isolation hospital.

The first was its cost. According to Kelly's Directory for 1895 the total sum spent on it – which must have included building, furnishing and equipping came to no less than £5,000. This was probably the largest amount spent on any single public undertaking in Havant to that date. The second was its location. Most isolation hospitals were erected in the remotest spot possible, Westbourne's, for example, was on Emsworth Common, Fareham's was out at Catisfield, Portsmouth's at Milton and Gosport's at Elson. None of these was adjacent to any significant centre of population. The Havant hospital, by contrast, although not immediately adjacent to any residences (at least not until the erection of Potash Terrace in 1902) was no more than a few hundred yards from the very centre of the town. What is more surprising is that no objections seem to have been raised to it being there. This is in stark contrast to Gosport, where the mere proposal to erect the Elson hospital in 1887 led to fierce and sustained local opposition. (It was not finally built until 1899 and even then had to rely on the generosity of a single private benefactor for its creation.)

The hospital board, which ran this impressive new institution, was comprised of delegates from the three local authorities, which were its catchment area, and met once a month in the hospital board room. It was financed by contributions (officially known as precepts) from each of the three councils. The supervision of all medical matters – including the admission and discharge of patients – was in the hands of the Medical Officer or his deputy, but the day to day running of the hospital was firmly in the

hands of the Matron (the first being Miss Crosby) and the Hospital Rule Book sets out her duties in some detail. She was to have:

*General control and charge of the Hospital, administrative buildings, nurses, servants and property therein. She is to devote her whole time to the service of the Board and to use her diligence in nursing patients, in instructing nurses, and in disinfecting, in the Hospital-house, clothing and other things within the limits of the Hospital grounds. She shall be responsible for the due administration of medicines prescribed.*

*She shall keep such books as may from time to time be required. She shall not absent herself from the Hospital or the boundary thereof without the consent of the Medical Officer or his Deputy, nor for longer than the time he shall allow.<sup>17</sup>*

Under her was a senior (or charge) nurse and the ordinary nurses, usually three or four in number. There was also a cook, a wards maid (or general servant) and what was originally referred to as a 'messenger' who was really a combined caretaker, gardener and laundryman. It was also his job to drive the hospital ambulance. In the 1880s this had simply been a 'fever cab' which was no more than an ordinary cab with frosted glass windows (to ensure anonymity) which brought infected patients from their homes to the isolation unit. But at some stage the board acquired a proper ambulance, initially horse-drawn but replaced in the 1920s with a motor vehicle. In the very brief article on the isolation hospital in the original *Making of Havant* series in the 1970s the reminiscences of one local resident are recorded who remembered:

*The excitement caused in the town in the early 1900s whenever the hospital 'black-maria type' horse-drawn ambulance, driven by Mr. Tassell, trundled through the streets conveying fever patients to isolation.<sup>18</sup>*

The rule book was also very clear about visitors, who were at all costs to be discouraged. Indeed the only visitors permitted were the relations and close friends of patients who were '*dangerously ill*' (emphasised in italics) and then only with the express permission of the medical officer or his deputy. No children were to be allowed and once admitted visitors were on no account to touch patients and at all times to sit at a distance from them. The friends



and relatives of other patients might, on application to the Matron, see them through the ward windows, but such visits should be *as brief as possible*.

Moreover it was strongly advised not to enter any public vehicle immediately after leaving the Hospital. In addition, in any case of smallpox;

*No one should attempt to enter the wards of the Hospital without having been previously properly re-vaccinated, and if he lives in a house where smallpox has occurred he is urged to apply at once to the Public Vaccinator in order that he and the remainder of the occupants of such house may be vaccinated, no matter whether they have, or not, been previously vaccinated.*

Because all records relating to the hospital board do not survive from before 1924, and as their monthly meetings were almost never so much as mentioned in the press, we know effectively nothing about the day to day running of the hospital and must gather what scraps we can from other sources. But we can be sure that the need for a proper isolation hospital was soon made apparent, for in October 1895 there was a serious outbreak of typhoid in Bedhampton, with most of the 15 confirmed cases being taken to the hospital, whilst scarlet fever (another infectious disease) was also on the increase there, with the board schools being closed on the advice of the Medical Officer, Dr. Norman.<sup>19</sup>

The Havant area in the late 19th Century was, by and large, not an unhealthy place – despite the lack of mains drainage – but there were areas of slums and deprivation, most notably Somerstown (known locally as Bugs Row) and the houses in and around Brockhampton Lane. Indeed one letter-writer to the *Portsmouth Evening News* in 1882, who signed himself 'Observer' stated that:

*There is constant fever in the locality ... and ... it is impossible to have health in Brockhampton Lane unless drainage is improved and a good supply of water furnished to every house.*<sup>20</sup>

But the hospital was not always busy. For example in one of the very few press reports of a hospital board meeting in January 1897 it was noted that it

currently contained *only two patients who were practically convalescent and who would be discharged early next week.*<sup>21</sup>

Indeed there were just 27 cases in total for the whole of the year ending March 31st 1897.<sup>22</sup>

On the other hand the 1901 census records no less than 15 patients (all of them children between the ages of four and 14 and in May that year the Medical Officer, Dr. Norman, in his annual report, listed eight deaths that had occurred in the hospital over the previous 12 months: five from diphtheria, two from enteric fever and one from scarlet fever, although no infectious disease fatalities had occurred outside of the hospital.<sup>23</sup>

The census also gives us some details about the staff. The Matron was now Elizabeth (Lily) Maddock, 28-years-old and born in Ireland. Under her were just two nurses, Carrie Blunderbus, 30-years-old and born in India, and Minnie Brice(28) who was also Irish. The wards'-maid was 18 year old Amy Crosfield and the cook Emma Dacomb (58). The 'Messenger' or caretaker is not recorded as he did not live on the premises at this time.

By the time the next census was taken in 1911 the hospital had acquired a new Matron, Harriet White, 39 years old and born in Faversham, Kent; whilst under her were no less than six nurses Ethel Lovell, Ethel Parrott, Annie Milward, Clara Baines, Beatrice Talbot and Ada Lowton (whose ages ranged from 26 to 41 years) as well as a housemaid Annie Cutler (the only member of staff born locally) and a cook Mary Kerr. There were, however, just eleven patients, all children between four and 12-years-old.

The only incident of note that I can find in the years between 1901 and 1911 was the suicide of one of the nurses, Sarah Lawson, who in November 1906 took an overdose of morphine and pills. It seems that she had recently become very depressed following a bout of flu and was worried that, at the age of 40, she would soon be too old to continue her nursing career.<sup>24</sup>

We also know very little about the hospital in the period from shortly before to just after the First World War, but from 1924 to 1932, when the minute books of the monthly meetings of the Havant Joint Hospital Board survive,

we do begin to get a somewhat clearer idea, although the minutes themselves deal mainly with finance and maintenance; medical matters rarely arise.

In 1925 the precepts (or contributions) from the three local authorities amounted to £1,662 per annum, with almost exactly half – £830 – coming from the Havant Rural District Council, whilst Havant Urban District Council contributed £448 and Warblington Urban District Council £384. By 1930, however, the total had risen to £2,340 per annum. (In 1908, the only year prior to 1924 for which we have any accounts, it had been just £585).

The three main items of expenditure were (i) staff salaries; (ii) building and maintenance and (iii) provisions and supplies.

The largest salary was paid to the Medical Officer (up until 1928 this was Dr. A. S. Norman who was succeeded by his son Burford Norman) who received £75 per annum. Next came the Matron (Ethel Lovell) who received £70, then the Charge Nurse (£60). The ordinary nurses received around £35 to £40, although junior nurses received less. These were not huge sums, but all meals and accommodation were provided and there was also a small uniform allowance. The caretaker also received around £35 to £40 per annum. Up until 1928 this position was always filled by a local man who did not reside on the premises, but with the appointment in April of that year of Mr. Billott, who lived in Horndean, it was resolved to erect a cottage for him in the hospital grounds.<sup>25</sup>

Other additions to, or improvements of, the hospital included the erection of glass-roofed verandas in 1922; heaters were provided for them three years later. The re-decoration of the administration block in August 1925 (at a cost of £145), and an extension to the building housing the ambulance in 1928 when a motor vehicle replaced the horse-drawn one.

The third significant item of expenditure was the purchase of food, cleaning and disinfecting products, and drugs and other medical items. A list of food provisions for the half year ending September 1930 comprised:

Baking powder; Bread; Butter; Bacon; Beef juice; Biscuits; Corned beef; Cocoa; Coffee; Chickory; Cornflour; Currants; Custard powder; Calves foot jelly; Dripping; Eggs (fresh and powdered); Essence of beef; Fish; Flour; Jelly;

Lard; Meat; Milk; Marmalade; Mustard; Mineral water; Pepper; Candied peel; Rice; Raisins; Sugar (lump, white, demarara and caster); Salt; Sausages; Spirits (brandy); Sultanas; Tapioca; Tea; Tinned fruit (apricots, peaches, pears and pineapple slices); Treacle; Vinegar.

This was probably a far more varied and nutritious diet than most of the patients would have received at home.

The medical supplies comprised of:

Absorbent wool; Glycerine; Lint; Boracic lint; Liquorice powder; Listerine; Lysol; Monsol tablets; Ointment (zinc and boracic); Starch and zinc powder; Surgical tow; Turpentine; Vaseline.

In October 1931 with the economic condition of the country in a very poor state, a letter was received from the Ministry of Health asking for savings to be made, but the Board were of the opinion that:

*In view of the small amount of salaries paid to their officers they do not consider that any reduction should be asked of them, and they cannot see how expenditure can be further reduced, as the strictest economy in working their hospital has always been exercised.*<sup>26</sup>

In April 1932 the Havant Joint Hospital Board was wound up, and control of the hospital was transferred to a new Isolation Hospital Committee of the Havant Urban District Council. So, for the last few years of its existence we are once again deprived of any records regarding the running of the hospital. But one of the most noteworthy events of its last few years must have been the death, on 1 February 1935 of Matron Ethel May Lovell, at the age of 53. She had been Matron for some 21 years, but had actually been on the staff for even longer (she is recorded on the 1911 Census).

She died after contracting blood poisoning in the course of her duties at the hospital and her funeral, at St Joseph's Catholic Church in West Street on 4 February, was attended by a large number of mourners, including local councillors and other dignitaries, as well as many of her former patients.<sup>27</sup>

On 1 April 1936 the isolation hospital was closed and its remaining patients were transferred to the Milton hospital in Portsmouth. This was the fate of

most isolation hospitals in the 1930s (Westbourne's, for example, closed in 1933) for with the incidence of infectious disease generally on the decline it was felt that cases were best dealt with either in a smaller number of regional hospitals, or, more usually, within general hospitals.

In fact as an institution the isolation hospital had a very brief existence. It only became the norm to treat all serious infectious disease cases in separate hospitals in the late 19th century (save for smallpox which was always the exception) when the Contagion Theory of disease was finally confirmed, replacing the old Miasma Theory which had been the prevailing orthodoxy in the mid-19th century. Miasma Theory maintained that many, if not most diseases were spread not by person-to-person contact or through polluted water supplies but by 'miasmas' that spread through the air and emanated from decaying organic matter, especially sewage and human corpses.<sup>28</sup> The vast majority of isolation hospitals therefore were erected between 1875 and 1900 and few survived until after the Second World War.

Shortly after the hospital closed there was a proposal to turn it into a Public Assistance Institution – i.e. a workhouse – to replace the old one in West Street which had closed at almost exactly the same time, but this did not materialise. However the adjacent – and recently opened – Havant War Memorial Hospital did take over some of the equipment as well as the mortuary, ambulance garage and a portion of the garden.<sup>29</sup>

During and after the Second World War the site was used as the council depot and county ambulance station. The nurses' accommodation block being converted into a house and flat for council employees and an office for ambulance staff.

The buildings were demolished in 1972 and the site was used as a car park. Only a section of the south boundary wall survived into the 21st century.

Later the whole area was cleared, including the row of cottages known as Potash Terrace, and large retail units were erected to form the Central Retail Park.

All traces of both the hospital buildings and the grounds have now been obliterated.

## NOTES

- 1 Havant Union Board of Guardians Minutes 11.5.1858 HCRO PL3/10)
- 2 Minutes 3.12.1859
- 3 Minutes 27.3.1879
- 4 Minutes 16.12.1880
- 5 Minutes 28.6.1883; 20.9.1883; 4.10.1883
- 6 J.R.Smith. *The Speckled Monster: Smallpox in England with particular reference to Essex*, p.58
- 7 Diana Crook *Defying the Demon: Smallpox in Sussex*, p.99
- 8 *Hampshire Chronicle* 24.3.1777. *Inoculation was the injection of a small dose of the smallpox virus itself; vaccination was the injection of the milder cowpox virus.*
- 9 *Portsmouth Evening News* 2.5.1896
- 10 Minutes 18.8.1887.
- 11 Minutes 21.11.1889
- 12 *Hampshire Telegraph* 1.7.1893
- 13 *Portsmouth Evening News* 21.7.1893. Stallard's was the lowest of several bids the highest being £2,100.
- 14 *Portsmouth Evening News* 21.7.1893; 12.8.1893
- 15 *Portsmouth Evening News* 4.8.1894
- 16 *Report on the Health of Havant; 25th-27th Sept. 1894. British Parliamentary Papers* Vol. 17 p. 119-20
- 17 CRO 64M 76/DDC 18. The Rules were drawn up in July 1893 and re-issued ten years later.
- 18 *Making of Havant* Vol III p. 23-4.
- 19 *Portsmouth Evening News* 12.10.1895
- 20 *Portsmouth Evening News* 21.9.1882 under the headline *A Disgrace to Havant.*
- 21 *Portsmouth Evening News* 16.1.1897
- 22 *Hampshire Telegraph* 5.4.1897
- 23 *Portsmouth Evening News* 26.5.1901
- 24 *Portsmouth Evening News* 23.11.1906
- 25 Havant Joint Hospital Board Minutes of Meetings 16.10.28 HCRO 72M 84/HH1 and HH2.
- 26 Minutes 27.10.1931
- 27 *Portsmouth Evening News* 1.2.1935; 4.2.1935
- 28 C. J. Longcroft, for example, was most certainly a believer as the section on cemeteries in his *Hundred of Bosmere* (1857) shows, (p.78-9)
- 29 *Hampshire Telegraph* 1.4.1936



Rear view of the medical staff accommodation with nurses in the doorways.



The Havant Union Workhouse in West Street.

## Langstone Towers – Auxiliary Military Hospital

Langstone Towers is situated in Langstone High Street and the building is easily identified by its dome. During the war it was used as an Auxiliary Military Hospital and the following is taken from the Official Report of the Voluntary Aid Organization, Hampshire, of the British Red Cross Society and St John's Ambulance Brigade:

*Messrs Stent kindly lent their house, Langstone Towers, Havant to be used as a Red Cross Hospital, which was opened on the 8th December 1914 with 30 beds; this number being afterwards increased to 46. Mrs. Paxton was appointed as Commandant, Dr. Stewart Norman Physician, Dr. Burford Norman Surgeon, Drs. Gedge and Levick as Medical Officers and Mr. C. S. Davies Pharmacist. A total of 1,430 patients were treated and 125 operations performed. The hospital specialised in Massage and Electrical Treatment. The Hospital was closed on the 31st January 1919. It was on the 23rd November 1914 that the Commandant was notified by the Secretary of the British Red Cross Society that the offer of Langstone Towers had been approved by the War Office. The Register of Patients kept at the time is still extant. It is a large volume, specially embossed with the words: REGISTER OF PATIENTS, LANGSTONE TOWERS, HAVANT.*

The official report states that 1,430 patients received treatment. The Register records 1,431; the last case was a gunner in the Royal Garrison Artillery suffering from lumbago. The highest rank of patient recorded was Sergeant. The first entry to bed No 1 was on 8th December 1914 with Pleurisy.

The records shed some light on the progress of the war; the very early cases were frost-bitten feet followed largely by Influenza, Pneumonia, Tonsillitis, Laryngitis and the like. The first bullet wound case 29 December 1914, the first nervous shock case 14 April 1915, and the first gas-poisoning 12 May 1915. The majority of patients were suffering from "gun shot" wounds. A group of 22 French *soldats* was admitted in December 1914, all with bullet wounds. Their records were with the Salvation Army, Cologne. Gas cases predominated from late 1916 until March 1918. There were a few cases of malaria, and, of the 27 patients admitted after the cease fire, 17 were suffering from this complaint. During the whole time not one life was lost.



During the last 18 months of the hospital's existence patients were instructed in fancy work and basket making. Every fourth piece of work was given to the maker, the rest sold to pay for materials used.

The staffing was on an entirely voluntary basis with the exception of two trained Nursing Sisters, with an average of 45 members of the Havant Voluntary Aid Detachment (Hants 22), who served with their Commandant Mrs LC Paxton and Quartermaster Miss Norah Lewis. Thirty-six business men acted as night orderlies. The Masseuse, Miss K Wilder, was engaged in 1917, and there were 3,855 treatments given to 164 cases with very good results.

On one occasion, one of the rare extraordinarily high tides occurred and flooded Langstone High Street, marooning the Hospital. Nothing daunted, the able-bodied men in the village (there were very few – most were away on active service) turned out and gave a pick-a-back "ferry" service through the floods for the VADs arriving for duty and for those returning, amid much merriment on the part of nurses and patients alike.

On Finance the Voluntary Aid Organisation Official Report for Hampshire gives:

Total of Donations: £1,998 18s. 8d. (£1,998.93p). Army Grant: £6,137 0s.11d. (£6,137.05p). Average cost per patient 3s. 8d. (18p) per day in 1915 and rose to 5/7d. (28p) by 1919. The local residents were very generous in their giving.

*The Hampshire Telegraph* January 1st 1915 records: *Large Christmas Tree, 4 presents for each of the 30 soldiers (including 13 Belgians), turkey, fruit and other luxuries for lunch and evening concert.*

*And on February 5th 1915: An entertainment was given at the Empire Theatre, [North Street] Havant, in aid of the Langstone Towers Hospital by the "White Eyed Kaffirs" from Emsworth. A film was shown on the Bioscope in the interval.*

A dance took place on 19 February 1919 at Havant Town Hall, to celebrate the closing of the hospital. It was arranged by the VAD (Hants 22) staff and orderlies.



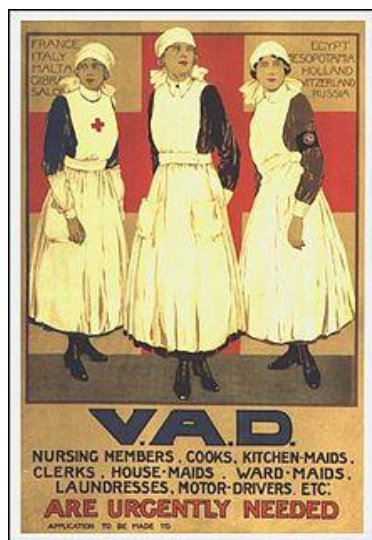
Nursing staff and patients at the Langstone Towers Red Cross Military Hospital.





### Photograph taken in about 1919 shows most of the nursing staff

Part of Langstone Towers can be seen behind this group, the nurses in which were all identified by Miss Paxton. In the front row are Miss C. Bell, Miss E. Bruce, Miss D. Rogers, Miss N. Lewis (Quartermaster), Night Sister, Mrs. L.C. Paxton, Hospital Commandant, Day Sister, Miss A. Crossley, Mrs. G. Whittington, Miss K. Stallard, and Miss N. Paxton. Second row, Miss M. Fowles, Miss M. Taylor, Miss M. Woolgar, Miss I. Trevett, Miss M. Clarke, Miss K. Wilder (masseuse), Miss B. Broad, Miss H. Fletcher. It is not known whether the men pictured were patients or the volunteer night orderlies mentioned by Miss Paxton.



This Certificate is presented by the Army Council, as a permanent record of their thanks, to be placed in the building which has been known and used as the Langstone Towers Auxiliary Hospital for British sick and wounded during the Great War, 1914-1919.

Christina Churchill

The War Office,  
London,  
August, 1920.

## *Havant War Memorial Committee*

*Chairman – Mr Thorburn A. Stallard*

*Hon Secretary* Mr Edgar S. Butler  
"Thirlmere" Langstone Avenue, Havant

*Joint Treasurers* Mr W.H. Wintle ( Lloyds Bank )  
Mr E. Trevett ( Barclays Bank )

April 1919

Dear Sir or Madam

At a Public Meeting, held in the Town Hall, Havant, on Friday, 21st March, 1919, it was decided that a fund for the purpose of providing a War Memorial should be opened.

The form of the Memorial considered most suitable was a Cottage hospital, and it was proposed that a Properly Equipped Modern Hospital should be erected as soon as possible, and in the meanwhile Langstone Towers be acquired as a temporary hospital and altered in accordance with the requirements of the Medical Practitioners of the district.

We are, therefore, making an appeal to every resident in Havant to contribute according to their ability for this good cause. The subscriptions promised up to date (see list overleaf) lead us to believe that the action proposed and adopted at the Public Meeting, meets with the general support of the inhabitants.

The cost of acquiring Langstone Towers and altering it in accordance with the wishes of the doctors, will mount approximately to £2,500. It should be understood that in addition to the premises there are 3 acres of freehold land, which is included in the purchase price.

The capital sum it is proposed to raise is at least £5,000. The balance, after the purchase and equipment of Langstone Towers, will be invested: capital and interest being reserved for the building of the new hospital.

The alterations to be made will not interfere with the future site of Langstone Towers as a residence, when the time is opportune to erect the up-to-date hospital embodied in the scheme. The British Red Cross Society have kindly promised to present to the hospital the equipment which has been used by them at Langstone Towers.

We feel sure that this scheme will commend itself to you, and that you will agree that no more fitting memorial to the gallant men who fought and died for their country, or have been wounded in the cause, could be provided such as is proposed, which will minister to the needs of the sick and make real endeavour to save life.

Finally, may we appeal to you to contribute as generously as possible to this worthy object. A form is enclosed herewith, which we shall be glad if you will fill up as soon as possible in order that we may proceed with the temporary arrangements. The Committee will be glad to hear from you within 14 days of the receipt of this appeal.

The case is urgent; the doctors state that there is an immediate call for additional hospital accommodation in the district, and to meet the need of wounded men who are being discharged from Military Hospitals who require further treatment.

The Local Bank Managers have kindly agreed to act as Joint Treasurers, Subscribers are therefore invited to hand donations to either Mr W. H. Wintle (Lloyds Bank) or Mr E. Trevett (Barclays Bank) or send direct to the secretary.

We remain, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

( Sd. ) THORBURN A. STALLARD Chairman,  
EDGAR S. BUTLER, Hon. Secretary

List of Subscriptions to date:

		£.	s.	d.
Mr L. Paxton		5	0	0
Per Miss Lewis				
Mrs Lewin	3 3 0			
Mrs Miller	1 1 0			
Miss Lewis	1 1 0			
Miss K. Lewis	1 1 0			
Miss N. Lewis	5 5 0			
Collected in small sums	6 9 0	18	0	0
Mr F. Stent		100	0	0
Mr A. L. Stent		100	0	0
Mr Stirling Stent		100	0	0
Mr W. Fletcher		25	0	0
Mr Percival P. Davies		25	0	0
Local Tent Independent Order of Rechabites		3	0	0
Portsea Island Co-operative Society		5	0	0
Mr W. Edney		5	0	0
Mr J. Matson		5	0	0
Mr W. Fletcher, jnr.		10	0	0
Mr W. L. Lassester		5	0	0
Revd E. T. Kirby		5	0	0
Mr Whittington		5	0	0
Mrs Whittington		5	0	0
Mr C. S. Davies		10	0	0
Mr A. J. Pratt		1	0	0
Rev H. N. Rogers		5	5	0
The Very Rev Canon Daly		5	5	0
Mr W. Tolcher		5	0	0
Mr E. E. Brown		3	0	0
Mr F. Bone		1	0	0
Mr and Mrs Hazell		0	10	0
Mr W. Rutter		0	5	0
Mr W. L. Hibberd		2	2	0
Mrs Hibberd		2	0	0

Messrs Alfred Stent & Sons have also promised £100  
per year for five years towards maintenance.

## *Havant War Memorial Hospital Committee.*

President: Mr E. S. Butler, M.B.E.  
Chairman: Mr A. J. Pratt.  
Hon. Secretary: Miss Standing.

Joint Hon. Treasurers:  
Mr R. L. Chuter (Lloyds Bank).  
Mr K. A. Walford (Barclays Bank).

Finance Committee:  
Mrs Paxton. Mr D. MacMureay.  
Canon J. J. Daly. Mr G. R. Standing J. P.

18, North Street

Havant.

June, 1925.

DEAR SIR OR MADAM,

The Havant War Memorial Hospital Committee consider the time opportune to make an intensive appeal for funds towards the completion of the scheme.

Quite recently the Committee have acquired a site on very reasonable terms, situated in the Cross Way Road, with a delightful south aspect.

Messrs G. C. Vernon-Inkpen and Rogers have prepared plans for the erection of the Cottage Hospital, who after consultation with the Medical Profession, we have pleasure in submitting herewith. The cost of building will be approximately £5,000, and towards this amount we have in subscriptions and promises £1,600

In bringing these facts to your notice the committee feel sure there will be a ready response from the generous public of Havant, Hayling, North Havant and Bedhampton.

The need of the hospital was never greater than today, and it will be entirely at the service and under the direction of people of this district.

Will you therefore seriously consider what financial support you can render and fill up the enclosed promise form and return it to the Honorary Secretary or to one of the Collectors who will shortly wait upon you.

Yours in the service of the Sick and those in need of Hospital Treatment.

E. S. BUTLER, President.

A. J. PRATT, Chairman.

KATE STANDING, Hon. Sec.

# Havant War Memorial Hospital Minutes

1919 to 1938

Abstracted by Ann Griffiths

Two books of General Committee Minutes have recently come to light, from which these notes have been made. Importantly, they show that Langstone Towers was returned to residential use in 1919 and that the initial plans for a hospital with 12 to 15 beds, was superseded by a smaller plan for a central block of 6 beds, wings to be added at a later date.

Havant Urban District Council (HUDC) requested its chairman, Mr Thorburn Stallard, to hold a Town Meeting to consider some form of war memorial for Havant. This was as a result of receiving some letters from local people asking for this to be in the form of a cottage hospital. Mrs Paxton, for so long commandant of the Langstone hospital, had been told that they could have the equipment from the Langstone Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) hospital. The meeting was held on Thursday 6th March 1919 at the Council Room. A committee was elected to look into the matter and report back in two weeks. The committee elected Mr Stallard as chairman and ES Butler of Thirlmere, Langstone Avenue, as secretary,

Wednesday 19th March 1919 - The committee visited Langstone Towers and looked at extending the operating theatre, providing an extra bathroom and lavatory, creating a new doorway and closing another, with a view to providing 12 to 15 beds and making a ward for surgical cases with 3 beds. Land to be sold with it was 3 acres. Some land could be sold for building and still leave room for building a modern cottage hospital at a later date.

30th April 1919 - Letters received from Woolmer White, Sir Frederick Fitzwygram and Mr Dymoke White saying that they could not subscribe to the HWMH fund. Also a letter from Mrs Boyd Richardson to the same effect. [They probably wanted to build a memorial cross instead. See July 1921 minutes.]

17th May 1919 - Letter received from Messrs Wyatt asking the committee to accept responsibility for keeping the garden at Langstone Towers in good order and for the protection of goods left there by the Havant section of the

VAD.

20th May 1919 – Friendly Societies had rendered great help by the fête at Langstone Towers, which had realised £5.

23rd May 1919 – Mr Stallard resigned from the chair. Dr Norman opposed the use of Langstone Towers, preferring the idea of a temporary army hut hospital. Dr Levick agreed that Langstone Towers should be abandoned. Opposition was on grounds of position and sanitary arrangements for it as a permanent hospital.

10th June 1919 – A public meeting was held. 33 voted for the elimination of Langstone Towers and 16 against.

AJ Pratt offered to store the goods from Langstone Towers free of charge. Some people had not contributed to the fund because they didn't approve of the Towers being used. So the committee decided to abandon its use, resolved to obtain a site for a new hospital and as soon as the economic state of the building trade would permit, the first wing of the hospital would be built.

No minutes from 19th June to 24th October. During 1919 and 1920 the Friendly Societies raised £200. In 1921 land at Park Road was considered for the new hospital.

January 1921 – HUDC prepared to grant a 99 year lease on the land at £1 a year. Resolved to accept. Mrs Fitzwygram asked about the possibility of buying Potash Cottages.

25th July 1921 – HUDC was proposing to hold a public meeting with a view to erecting a cenotaph.

October 1922 – W Fletcher resigned as chairman of the Finance Committee as he was moving to Hove. ES Butler elected in his place and Mrs Lucy CM Paxton elected as Honorary Secretary. Farebrother and Ellis offered Potash cottages for £1200. Boyd Richardson cancelled his £25 subscription now that the cenotaph was to be built. It was decided that the Red Cross items at Pratt's store would be moved to the hut at the rear of Jessamine House. It was said that some of the goods would not improve by being kept in a hut and should be sold in a rummage sale. Mrs Standing, Lewis and Paxton could



sell what they thought fit.

1st March 1923 – Considered buying The Bungalow, Grove Rd, for £1600 for conversion to a hospital. The neighbours (Fletchers) opposed the idea; there was a clause that said the bungalow could only be used for residential use. HUDC had asked if they still wanted the land in Park Road as they needed somewhere for a dispensary. Miss Kate Standing elected Honorary Secretary in place of Mr Paxton. Letter to be sent to the Union Workhouse to ask if they would lease part of their garden, next to the site.

2nd October 1924 – Spring Lawn offered to the committee but not thought suitable. Considered plots at Boundary Way, Park Way, and Cross Way.

6th December 1924 – Discussion with Messrs Inkpen and Rogers as to the suitability of the site in Cross Way. Mr Rogers kindly offered to prepare and submit plans to the committee before the next meeting. It was thought advisable to have a women's ward with four beds, the same for the men and four private wards.

12th January 1925 – It was decided that the plot in Cross Way should be purchased subject to the conditions laid out in a letter of the 14th. If the hospital were not built only private houses to be built on the site; one house at not less than £400 or two at not less than £700. The building line must be set back 15ft. Purchaser to fence both sides of the plot (signed ER Longcroft, Clerk). Mr Rogers produced the plans and explained them. It was decided to show them to the doctors.

19th January 1925 – Mr GR Standing appointed to sign the transfer deed.

3rd April 1925 – Plans to be adopted with alterations suggested by Dr Burford Norman. Lots of fundraising activity followed - carnival, service, flag days, pantomime etc.

11th May 1925 – It was agreed to circularise the district with a copy of suggested plans and an appeal.

6th November 1925 – Resolved to ask to be released from the tenancy of land in Park Road. Fire Brigade to be asked to display their model of the hospital in the streets and have a collecting box.

15th January 1926 – Proposed and seconded that a public meeting be held to

decide either if the hospital should be built at Havant, or Emsworth be extended, with referendum. To ask Emsworth if a central hospital should be built. It was decided to ask Mr Carrell for an estimate for building the hospital as shown on the plans and Mrs Paxton the cost of equipment and maintenance.

23rd February 1926 – Emsworth would be happy to meet to discuss adding a wing/annexe to their hospital.

15th March 1926, Whit-Monday – Fête to be held at Belmont Park, courtesy of H Wigan. Funds earmarked for a Havant War Memorial Hospital.

July 9th 1926 – Letter in the News signed by 16 residents, who wanted the scheme to be abandoned and Emsworth extended.

#### 5th October 1926 – Subscribers Meeting

Report stated that the estimates to build at Cross Way were £7,000 plus £1,000 for furnishing. Towards this we have £1,801 12s 4d in the banks. 10 people have collection boxes and other money is promised. Subscribers were reminded that the hospital was to be *'in memory of our brave men who gave their lives for their country'* and that the people of Havant should see to it that *'whatever memorial is erected it may be worthy of the great sacrifice that was made'*.

Mr Ward said that they had not got the money and proposed that they should offer Emsworth a grant if they would provide for Havant cases during the period of preparation. Mr Walker offered to give £50 if a grant was made to Emsworth. Mrs Ward's suggestion was agreed, 174 for and 5 against. If Havant couldn't raise the money perhaps they should help Emsworth. A JP asked how they could use money collected for a Havant hospital, for one in Emsworth. Mrs McMurray thought that the architects would tell them if they could start with one ward. Mrs Paxton suggested a brick fund be started at 1d or 2d a brick. Messrs Bone, Crocker and Walker announced their resignation from the committee.

18th November 1926 – Mr E Rogers submitted a plan based on the same lines as the original design but with an amended arrangement of the first-floor rooms accommodation, *'which will permit of a portion of the building,*

*giving accommodation for 6 beds being erected first. The other two wings, on the single-storey principle, can be added without affecting the first part of the structure'. After a long discussion it was proposed by Mr Brown and seconded by Mrs McMurray that the new plan be accepted. It was decided that when £1,500 more had been raised the building could be commenced.*

23rd November 1926 - It was decided that a 'Workers' Penny Fund' be started.

30th November 1926 - Resolved to ask Mrs Marshall of Hayling to hold a fête in her garden. Mr Gordon and Mr Potts proposed a motion for the next meeting that no private wards be built in the first wing.

January 1927 - Mr Wigan had asked that the proceeds from the fête at Belmont Park should go to Emsworth. Mr Longcroft's advice to be sought.

18th January 1927 - Committee recommended that the fund should be called the 'HWM Hospital Voluntary House to House Fund'. Social gatherings to be arranged to bring the scheme before the public.

1st February 1927 - EA Rogers wrote to say that following the death of the senior partner, George Vernon-Inkpen, the firm would continue under the same name.

15th February 1927 - Above scheme to be called 'Havant and District Hospital Weekly Collection'. 500 collecting cards to be printed with name, object and rules 1, 2 and 7 on the back. Collectors to pay in money collected on first Monday of the month. Quarterly statement to be published in the paper.

29th September 1927 - Messrs Carrell, Godwin, Hedgcock, Salter, Privett, Sharp and Crossly to be asked to bid for building the central block after Rogers explained the plans, already passed by the UDC.

6th October 1927 - Bids from Archibald Lewis Godwin, (Waterloo House) North Street, Havant £2,836; Frank Privett, Southsea, £2,987; JE Hedgcock, Finchdean, £3,120; Samuel Salter Southsea, £3,391; Sharp and Sone Hayling, £3,347. Messrs Carrell said they had so much work in hand they could not take on any more

[Research on the chosen builder of the central block reveals that Archibald

Lewis Godwin was the son of a bricklayer's carter and was born at Lymbourne in 1889. In 1891 the family was living at 4 Portland Terrace, Waterloo Road. In the 1911 census Archibald was at '7 Langstone' as a bricklayer, his brother being a railway labourer. Archibald married Edith Rose Vince, in Havant in 1912. Edith was a 21 year old fellmonger's daughter and lived at Knox Road. Online records show that Godwin was apprenticed to Mr Treagust from 1904 to 1906 as a bricklayer. He joined the Army (Royal Engineers) in 1908, aged 18, and served in France, returning to the building trade after WW1. In a 1927 directory Godwin is at Waterloo House, North Street, as a builder and decorator.]

14th October 1927 – Resolved to have a 'Digging the First Sod' ceremony.

6th December 1927 – Lady Louis Mountbatten to be asked to lay the stone and the Rt Hon. JEB Seely (Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire) to be the second choice. Anyone giving a donation could lay a brick. All public bodies, clubs, scouts and guides to attend. Decided to meet at 2 pm for the ceremony.

3rd May 1928 – Concern expressed that as the hospital would not be big enough to meet the demand, they should affiliate with a larger hospital.

19th June 1928 – Eleven doctors in the district to be invited to serve on the medical staff and to meet the committee to discuss this. Group to visit the hospital to see if the picture rails should be lowered.

7th August 1928 – Architect had suggested that the floor of the operating theatre should be in the superior Terraris paving instead of Durolite.

29th September 1928 – Resolved to accept Mr Godwin's cleft chestnut paling fence and two 9ft gates, at £33.

23rd November 1928 – Furniture to be moved from Jessamine House to the hospital. Dr Burford Norman to prepare a set of rules to submit to the General Committee. Ladies Committee to select curtains. Hire large gas stove from the Gas Company.

9th January 1929 – Lino and cork by Messrs McIlroy accepted. Cement floor to be laid under the hut to be erected in the grounds. HUDC to be asked to lay the cart-way over the path to the gates.

21st February 1929 – Boiler and pipes had burst. Who was to blame?

7th March 1929 - Portsmouth contributory scheme to be worked in Havant

15th March 1929 - Working of the hospital to commence in the first week in July. Official opening to be arranged later.

21st June 1929 - On the recommendation of the Ladies' committee Miss Whitmell of New Barnet to be appointed Matron. If possible, her friend to be appointed as nurse. Commander A Potts to assist in drawing up the rules. Telephone to be installed as soon as possible.

*The Havant War Memorial Hospital has been erected by the united efforts of men and women in this district, as a Memorial of the services and sufferings of their relations and friends during the Great War, and to continue the good work begun at the Langstone Towers Auxiliary Hospital, the equipment of which has been transferred to the present building*

*Suz. C. Paxton*

Commandant. Hants "22" VAD. July 1929.

15th July 1929 - Another nurse and a probationer would be required and a cook-general. Discussed purchase of electric cleaner. Wall to be built on north boundary and shed with painted iron roof to hold 10 tons of coal and coke. Path from back door to shed. Hospital to be called 'The Havant War Memorial Hospital'. Rules as read to be adopted.

The Archdeacon had given permission to Rev J Barton to dedicate the theatre to the memory of Lt Archibald FC Paxton. The Rector to be asked to dedicate the main building on 27th at 3 p.m. Miss Bannister had offered the miniature spade presented to her at the 'First Sod' ceremony. Sir George Goodwin proposed that the fund be opened for the Wings. [The first patient was admitted on 28th July 1929.]

2nd August 1929 - Matron had been engaged at £80 per annum, two nurses at £45, probationer at £20. Uniform allowance £5 p.a. to be paid half-yearly. Ward maid also engaged and a man for the garden for a few weeks.

Messrs Larkham, Mason, Nichols, Patterson, Peters, Pullen and Rose to be asked the price for a truck of coal delivered. Parents of children sent to the

hospital for slight operations should be charged 5s unless they belong to a contributory scheme. Sir George Goodwin to be appointed Fabric Steward with power to act. Deposit accounts to be opened at the three banks in the town for the Wing Fund.

Undated August 1929 - Letter to be written to Mrs Paxton thanking her for the handsome gift of theatre equipment in memory of her son.

Second book of minutes starts here:-

20th February 1930 - Many residents are already members of the Portsmouth Contributory Scheme, which makes it difficult for the committee to start a scheme of its own. By the kind cooperation of Portsmouth they were allowed to affiliate with that scheme so that all members of the scheme are eligible for treatment in our hospital, and the Portsmouth Eye and Ear Infirmary. The payment of 2d a week qualifies. Thanks expressed to the voluntary collectors for the scheme.

28th March 1930 - Annual Meeting in the Town Hall. The report stated that the first patient was admitted on 28th July 1929 and that by the end of the year 148 patients had been treated. Dr AS Norman, Consulting Physician, has the support of Drs B Norman and Dewhurst (Havant), Drs Glancie, Turnbull and Soames (Emsworth). Dr Livingstone Walker (North Havant), Dr Doyle (Drayton), Dr Cooper (Waterlooville), Dr Ferguson (Purbrook) and Dr Way (Horndean). Dr Levick had sadly died in recent weeks.

The staff now consists of Matron, a staff nurse, 3 probationers, 2 maids and a lad. The accounts show a balance of £240 15s 2d. The hospital has become a member of the British Hospitals Association, whose president is Sir Harold Pink.

All ladies may join the Linen League (President Mrs Dewhurst) on payment of 1/- 6d per annum and two articles. Membership has passed the 100 mark. A series of Whist Drives, organised by Mrs Burchell, has raised £194 over two years.

15th April 1930 - Captain Aitchison to be thanked for superintending the instalment of the wireless.

19th September 1930 - Doctors to be asked if a photo of John Burrows could

go in the paper. The boy had unusually recovered from lockjaw after falling off the back of a car (his son said in 2012 that a photo was taken of his father with a nurse). Various other events to be arranged and in connection with the brick fund a monthly prize should be offered for the lucky number. Tradesmen to be asked to give prizes for Christmas draws.

20th March 1931 - Proposed that a letter be written to Sir Thomas Inskip MP, asking him to vote against the nurses Wages and Hours Bill as the nurses and committee object to it.

29th May 1931 - Proposed that another letter be sent to the MP asking that when the taxation of land values comes before Parliament, would he try to secure exemption for hospitals.

There were several outstanding accounts from patients who had received treatment. These to be referred to the Charges Committee.

19th June 1931 - The Finance Committee reported that the proceeds of the Summer Fayre, amounted to £164 0s 6d. Proposed that this would go to the two Wing Funds, with £35 1s 9d going to the General Fund. Letter from Southern Railway giving permission for a collecting box to be fixed at Havant Station.

18th September 1931 - AJ Pratt had passed away. As a main fundraiser, having been secretary of the Amalgamated Friendly Societies Hospital Committee, he had been interested in the hospital right to the end.

12th November 1931 - Any reasonable offer for the piano should be accepted. Secretary to write to Sister Merrifield to ask for a doctor's certificate. Decided that 3 months should be the maximum payment for sick leave and at the end of the 3 months one month's notice should be given to her. £200 to be invested in 5% War Loan 1929 -1947.

10th December 1931 - Wing Fund No.1 amounted to £326 15s 5d and there was £40 in Wing Fund No.2.

18th March 1932 - The medical staff to be asked to watch the interests of the hospital regarding patients who should come under the Public Assistance Committee.

22nd April 1932 - Lorna Countess Howe to be asked to become a vice-

president.

29th April 1932 - Annual Meeting. The President, GR Standing JP, made the opening remarks. CEB Longcroft took the chair. (He was elected Chairman of the General Committee in May 1931, with Mrs Paxton as Vice-Chairman. Revd Sugden also elected to the committee.)

20th June 1932 - Mr and Mrs Longcroft had offered the use of Langstone Lodge for a garden fête. (This became an annual event.) A sub-committee was formed and met on the 21st June. Activities with prizes might include clock golf, bowls, tennis and badminton. A 60ft tent to be erected in the meadow for teas. Side shows to be hired and produce stalls to be arranged. Admission 6d before 5 pm. and 3d after 5 p.m. Lorna Countess Howe agreed to open the fête at 3 p.m. Five hundred 6d tickets to be printed for sale at a reduced price before the day. Posters to be issued.

4th July 1932 - The committee met at Langstone Lodge. Mr Battell's orchestra had been engaged for five guineas. Matron to be asked to present prizes at 9 pm. 2,500 handbills to be printed; traffic notices for Southdown Buses to be printed and circulated. Chairman to arrange car parking. [This indicates how much work was still being done to raise funds for the two wings. In September a Bonfire Committee was set up with the same kind of detailed arrangements. In October Mrs Paxton stated that the Masonic Hall had been taken for 30th November and 1st December for a Bazaar.]

21st November 1932 - Mr Rogers, architect, attended the General Committee meeting. It was agreed that the plans for the extension could be inspected at Mr Longcrofts' office in West Street between 6 and 7 pm on 21st November. The plans should also be exhibited at the Bazaar. Five thousand tickets to be printed for the Bazaar at 3 for 1/-.

15th November 1932 - Hospital Sub-Committee Meeting at the hospital.

Chairman CEB Longcroft; Mrs Paxton, Miss Kate Standing, Mr EW Devonshire (officers), plus Dr B Norman and Dr MS Dewhurst, and Miss Whitmell (Matron). Mr AE Rogers of Vernon-Inkpen and Rogers also attended. The plans show two one storey extensions, to be in harmony with the present building. One large ward for six beds and two single private rooms. A verandah on south side of each block. Central heating proposed and separate



ward kitchen or alternative room, bathroom and lavatory, and slop accommodation with linen cupboard, for each block. Estimated cost £2,100.

31st January 1933 - The Bazaar had raised £170 10s 6d and £50 had been received from Lady Fitzwygram as a result of skating. A jumble sale would be held in March and a 'Pound Day' in May. Lady Fitzwygram and Lady Pink to be invited to be vice-presidents.

18th May 1933 - The architect to be asked to provide a gilt key for the opening of the wings and a religious service to be arranged.

19th June 1933 - Sub-committee to be asked to prepare a history of the hospital and have it printed on the programme for the opening.

17th July 1933 - Lady Howe to be asked if she would consent to the women's ward being named the 'Howe Ward' and Sir George to be asked if he would agree to the men's ward being called the 'Goodwin Ward'. The women's private ward to be called 'Standing Ward'. A vote of thanks to be sent to Mr Carrell for the work put in by the workmen. [The new extensions were opened on 19th July 1933.]

16th October 1933 - The Ball Committee to be invited to organise two balls, one in December and the other in February 1934.

10th December 1934 - £300 from the late Mr Cannings to be put into the Wing Fund account. [This would have been a huge boost to the fund].

5th May 1935 - Portsmouth Hospital secretary to be asked what the usual sum is for endowing a bed.

20th May 1935 - The present Jubilee Committee to report to the General; Committee as soon as possible:

1. What form a Silver Jubilee Children's Ward and other accommodation should take.
2. Power to consult architect and obtain estimate.
3. To suggest form of appeal to public.

28th May 1935 - There would be a conjurer, an ankle competition and a concert party at this year's Langstone Lodge Fête; also a comic cricket match at 7 pm. and prizes to be awarded for best dressed vehicle and cycle.

Dancing 8.30 to 11.30; tennis shoes to be worn. [One gross of pipes, Woodbines and chocolates were ordered for prizes for side-shows].

11th June 1935 – Special receipt books to be printed for subscriptions to the Jubilee Fund, with portraits of the King and Queen thereon, also labels for collection boxes. Mr Devonshire, Mrs Paxton, Mr S Stent and Mrs Marshall to open their gardens.

19th August 1935 – Sir George Goodwin to be appointed to serve on the Jubilee Committee, which is to instruct the architect to proceed to obtain tenders and submit to the General Committee.

18th November 1935 – Letter of appeal to be sent to the local press on behalf of the Jubilee Committee.

18th February 1936 – Sir George proposed that we proceed with negotiations with Doulton's for the supply of 8 panels - possibly two more - and inquire the fixing unless other tender is better.

Annual Meeting 1936 – Major Clarke-Jervoise took the chair. Mrs Burchell elected as a vice-president. Lady Bessborough to be invited to open the Children's Ward. [The Children's Jubilee ward was opened on 31st July 1936.]

17th August 1936 – Hearty vote of thanks to Sir George for arranging for the panels to be placed in the children's ward without any cost to the committee.

6th October 1936 – The Annual Bonfire. Torchlight procession to start from Star Meadow at 6.30 and proceed via North Street, West Street, Union Road, Cross Way, Staunton Road, Main Road to Fir Tree Corner, Bedhampton, north side of main road. Fancy dress may be worn. Apply to Quilliam's for lamps and farmers for hedge trimmings. Charge of 2d for adults and 1d for children. Car park 6d. Print 250 window bills,

12th July 1937 – The Council to be asked upon what terms they would lease or allow the hospital to rent the piece of land to the left of the old Isolation Hospital.

16th August 1937 – Messrs E Smith's tender for 25 tons of coke at 40/- a ton to be accepted. 5 cwt of anthracite cobbles to burn with the coke, from Messrs Fraser and White.

Fundraising continued throughout the next 12 months.

15th August 1938 – Meeting at Royal Hospital Portsmouth on 29th July. Eye and Ear, Emsworth and Havant hospitals also represented. *'Each district to have a key hospital, the smaller hospitals to work in conjunction except for finance. Each district to be represented on a central board'* was the gist of the resolution carried unanimously.

There follows a list of members of the various committees for each year.



## Proposed Havant War Memorial Hospital

G. C. VERNON-INKPEN, F.R.I.B.A., F.S.I., & E. A. ROGERS, P.A.S.I., L.S.A.,  
Architects, 40 Commercial Road, Portsmouth.

# The History of Havant War Memorial Hospital

An illustration of social and medical change during the past 50 years.

Dr. Giles Maskell, September 1971

## Introduction

Havant, just after the First World War, was a small market town on the south coast of England. It was widely known for its parchment-making factory, producing some of the best parchment in the world. Its population was a mere 7,000. Since that time, Havant has grown to an incredible extent. After the Second World War, the Portsmouth Corporation built a vast housing estate on the edge of Havant in which its overflow population, after the bombing, could live. Havant has also been affected by the general drift to the South East in the last few years. There is now a large industrial estate due to the proximity of its situation to Portsmouth and Southampton. The population of Havant today is estimated at 112,000. Havant Hospital was built as a War Memorial to those killed in the 1914–1918 war. Until the National Health Service Act came in to effect in 1948, there were two kinds of hospitals – voluntary hospitals, of which Havant Hospital was one, and municipal hospitals. Municipal hospitals were supported by local governments, while voluntary hospitals were supported entirely by public contributions and were therefore normally hopelessly short of funds. In both types of hospital, prior to the National Health Service, the medical staff played a leading part in the planning of additions and improvements, whereas since 1948 the administration has been taken over by professional administrators, and the doctors' role has been increasingly confined to medicine. At the same time medicine itself has become more complex, specialised and costly: communications have greatly improved and therefore the trend has been to centralise hospital facilities in large units. Although much of the work done at Havant Hospital in the early days might seem humdrum by modern standards, there are people in Havant today who owe their lives or health to dramatic cures or operations performed there. Some of those concerned with the early years of the hospital are still alive and they and their families have been a great help in the compilation of this history.

Havant Hospital came in to being as a local enterprise to meet the local need for the practice of acute hospital medicine; as this has become confined to large centres, the character of Havant Hospital has gradually change, and its history mirrors, in a small way, many of the social and medical changes which have taken place during the past 50 years.

### Planning

The beginning of the planning of the hospital can be traced to a Public Meeting held at the Town Hall at Havant on March 7, 1919. At this meeting, the Havant War Memorial Committee was set up to discuss what form Havant's War Memorial should take. Mr Thorburn Stallard, the Chairman of the Council and, at that time, the proprietor of the parchment works, was appointed Chairman. It was decided that a hospital would be the most suitable type of memorial, and the committee was asked to draw up a scheme for the provision of such a hospital. Everybody eagerly awaited the report of this committee and most were in favour of the proposed hospital. The *Hampshire Telegraph* of March 21, 1919 reported:

*... the arguments in favour of the establishment of a hospital in Havant, to serve not only the town but also the neighbouring villages, are many, and the idea that it should be set up as 'the poor man's nursing home' has undoubtedly appealed to many residents. The fact that hospital accommodation could be obtained in the town, and that sufferers would not need to undertake a journey to Portsmouth, is also held to be a strong argument in support of the proposal.*

At a second meeting held on March 21, the committee gave its report, and it was decided to push forward the plans for a hospital. A Finance Committee was appointed to organise collections. The report and appeal later issued by the Havant War Memorial Committee state:

*The form of memorial considered most suitable was a Cottage Hospital, and it was proposed that a 'Properly Equipped Modern\_Hospital' should be erected as soon as possible, and in the meantime Langstone Towers be acquired as a temporary hospital and altered in accordance with the requirements of the Medical Practitioners of the district.*

Langstone Towers was a large house in Langstone High Street belonging to the Stent brothers who owned the local tannery. During the First World War it had been used as a military hospital and run by the British Red Cross Society who promised to present to any new hospital all of the equipment that they had used at Langstone Towers. It closed on January 31, 1919.

However, although almost everybody thought that a hospital was the most suitable form of memorial, not all were in favour of the proposed arrangements. Mr Ralph Cousins [senior], a local historian, says in his History of Havant:

*When Havant War memorial Hospital was first proposed, a certain section of Havant people were opposed and thought it would be a better idea to enlarge Emsworth Hospital, but local opinion became so strong that they were overruled; the people decided they were going to have their own hospital and we made an all out effort to find the money on a voluntary basis.*

Emsworth already had a hospital very similar to that proposed at Havant, built to commemorate Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee.

Others thought that Langstone Towers would not make a suitable temporary hospital and so the 'Amalgamated Friendly Societies Hospital Demonstrations Committee' obtained permission for Langstone Towers to be opened to the public one afternoon so that they might judge for themselves its suitability. No chance of raising money was to be lost and so the public, having been invited to come along and give their opinion, were first charged for admission and then a lot more at a fête held in the back garden! In all, that afternoon's work raised £50.

A word must be said here about why Havant needed a hospital. Havant was the local centre for all the many villages around: however, anybody who required an operation of any kind, from the removal of tonsils and appendices to major amputations, was taken all the way to Portsmouth. Emsworth Hospital was used for minor surgery, but being a very small institution, it was reserved mostly for the inhabitants of Emsworth, although just before the opening of Havant Hospital, four of the five inmates of Emsworth Hospital were from Havant. So a hospital in Havant would save

people a long journey down to Portsmouth: it would reduce the pressure on the Emsworth and Portsmouth hospitals and it would complete Havant as the centre of the surrounding district. The four doctors practising at that time in Havant, Drs. A.S. Norman and N.B. Norman, Dr. Gedge and Dr. Levick, would be able to perform all the minor surgery for the district there. Infections were treated at the Fever Hospital, which Havant had had for a long time.

It was obviously fitting to build a hospital as a War Memorial as the committee stated in their appeal:

*We feel that this scheme will commend itself to you and that you will agree that no more fitting memorial - to the gallant men who fought and died for their country, or have been wounded in the cause - could be provided than an institution such as is proposed, which will minister to the needs of the sick and make a real endeavour to save life.*

The appeal made rapid progress and by mid-May 1919, the £1,000 mark was reached. The appeal and the response to it received much praise, if little financial help, from the people of the neighbouring towns. The Revd H.G. Sprigg, Rector of Emsworth, wrote in the Parish Magazine of April 10, 1919:

*As one of their next door neighbours, I would ask to be allowed to congratulate the Havant people at their splendid courage at such a time in launching a scheme to build and support a Cottage Hospital for twelve beds at a cost estimated at £5,000 for the building and £1,000 a year for maintenance.*

The last sentence of his article is on a less cheerful and somewhat prophetic note:

*If, as seems likely, the Labour demand for State hospitals in which all workmen's families shall have a right to free insurance and treatment, takes shape, all voluntary hospitals, such as our own at Emsworth and that proposed for Havant, will be closed.*

After the initial success of the Finance Committee and their secretary, Miss Kate Standing, things slowed down rapidly. Despite dances, competitions, fêtes, concerts, whist-drives and the efforts of Mrs Burchell and others, who went from house to house collecting pennies (a penny being the price of a

brick at that time), the total only increased very slowly and building did not start until 1927.

In the first thirteen years after the first meetings, Mrs Burchell collected £1,000. There is now a plaque on the wall of one of the wards in the hospital commemorating her splendid achievement. By the time sufficient money was raised it was no longer possible to buy Langstone Towers and therefore the only available piece of ground near the centre of Havant was bought and building began in 1927.

### The Building and Early Years

On November 16, 1927 Miss Bannister, 100 years old and the daughter of a former Havant doctor, turned the first sod on the site of the future hospital. The *Hampshire Telegraph* said:

*Miss Bannister, her slightly wrinkled face wreathed in smiles, turned the first sod of Havant's new hospital with a vigour which belied her years.*



Miss Bannister turning the first sod on 16 November 1927.



# Havant War Memorial Hospital.

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## *Service of Intercession*

*on the occasion of*

- - *Miss Bannister,* - -

*"Turning the First Sod"*

*of Earth to Lay the Foundations of Havant  
War Memorial Hospital,*

*on*

**Wednesday, November 16th,**

*at 2.30 p.m.*

---

Dr. A. S. NORMAN will preside

supported by

Dr. G. K. Levick, Dr. B. Norman, Dr. M. S. Dewhurst,  
Dr. A. B. Doyle, Dr. S. H. Facey, Dr. O. W. Gange,  
and Dr. A. J. May.

F. Leng, Esq., C.C., Councillors F. T. Clogg,  
J. L. C. Walker, G. Whittington and others.

There was a large number present at the ceremony, which was the climax to years of endeavour by Miss Standing and an energetic committee. Again no chance of raising money was to be missed and so:

*After the ceremony the public were invited to turn other sods at the price of a contribution to the hospital fund. Over 30 people availed themselves of this offer and the sum of £5 was collected in this way.*

After the ceremony the building began and made rapid progress. On January 20, 1928 the foundation stone was laid by Major General the Right Honourable J. E. B. Seely, Lord Lieutenant of the County. There followed a general vote of thanks to Miss Kate Standing, the committee, the architects, Messrs Vernon-Inkpen and Rogers, the builders, Messrs Godwin and Vince, and all who had enabled the hospital to reach this stage. Everyone were reminded that although the building had been paid for, the running costs of the hospital, estimated at £1,200 per year, would also have to be paid for by voluntary contributions.



Major General the Right Honourable J. R. B. Seely laying the foundation stone on 11 January 1928.

At a meeting of the Hospital Committee in February 1929 it was announced at last that the building of the hospital was completed and that the furniture from Langstone Towers, obtained from the British Red Cross Society by Mrs Lucy C. Paxton, the commandant of Langstone Military Hospital during the war, was being installed at Havant Hospital. Mrs Paxton also presented the equipment for the operating theatre to perpetuate the memory of her son, Archibald Francis Campbell Paxton, 2nd Lieutenant, Middlesex Regiment, who was killed on the Somme in 1916.



On 27 July 1929 the hospital was dedicated by Archdeacon Harold Rogers, formerly Rector of Havant. The ceremony was attended by many people, amongst them Miss Bannister, now 102 years old.

The date of the opening ceremony is uncertain, but a later document concerning the removal and appointment of trustees of the hospital states that the records of Havant Hospital date from July 29, 1929, probably implying that the first patient was received on this day.

When opened the hospital had 12 to 14 beds and one of its earliest patients was a boy of 10 who had been involved in a road accident with severe injuries to his right leg. He was taken there unconscious and on regaining consciousness ten days later, he complained to a nurse that his jaw was stiff. She sent for Dr. Burford Norman who at once diagnosed a case of tetanus, a disease usually fatal. The boy was given injections and looked after carefully

and gradually he got better. After ten weeks in hospital he was discharged, but for months afterwards he was unable to get around. However he was eventually cured completely and works in Havant today. This was one of the hospital's greatest successes in its early days. Dr. Burford Norman is also said to have performed more than one skin grafting operation successfully. I have been unable to confirm a story that he once arranged for the butcher to slaughter a sheep at 10.30 one morning and at 10.45 he was attempting to transplant the sheep's thyroid gland, a necessary organ for life, in to one of his patients.

In these early days there were many schemes to help pay the running costs of the hospital. There was an insurance system by which one paid a certain amount per week and in return one was guaranteed free treatment at the hospital when one was ill. If one did not participate in this, one had to pay a certain amount for every night spent in the hospital when one was ill. Another voluntary assistance scheme, this one organised by Mrs Paxton, is explained in its letter of introduction:

*The objects of the Linen League are to supply the Havant War Memorial Hospital with the linen required for the 23 beds and cots and the residential staff quarters, and, by means of working parties on Friday afternoons, keeping it in the necessary repairs. Members undertake to subscribe 1/6d. [7½p] per annum and to give two pieces of linen, ranging from sheets to dusters, according to their means and inclinations. Sizes of sheets, pillow-slips etc. required may be had on application to the Matron.*

HAVANT WAR MEMORIAL HOSPITAL.

**Ladies Linen League.**

## The Annual Meeting

will be held in

St. Faith's Hall

— On Thursday, April 22nd, 1937, at 3.30 p.m. —

R.S.V.P.

Tea at 4 p.m.

# HAVANT WAR MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

## DEDICATED JULY 1929

### President.

THE COUNTESS OF BESSBOROUGH

### Vice-Presidents,

COLONEL BEDINGFELD

MISS FITZWYGRAM

MRS. GWATKIN

LORNA COUNTESS HOWE

SQUADRON-LEADER R. C. LANE, C.C.

MRS. E. R. LONGCROFT

C. E. B. LONGCROFT, ESQ.

MAJOR CLARKE-JERVOISE

G. NAPIER-MARTIN, ESQ.

LADY PINK

ALDERMAN SIR HAROLD PINK, J.P.

MRS. THORBURN STALLARD

MR. G. R. STANDING, J.P.

H. F. YOUNG, ESQ.

G. ARBUTHNOT, ESQ.

ENG.-VICE-ADL. SIR GEO. GOODWIN,

K.C.B.

MRS. BURCHELL

### Trustees,

MRS. PAXTON, J.P.

MR. G. R. STANDING, J.P.

DR. BURFORD NORMAN, M.C., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

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Chairman, C. E. B. LONGCROFT, ESQ.

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THE RIGHT REV. THE LORD BISHOP OF HERBORNE.

REV. J. F. S. SOLOMON, M.A.

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MR. PAXTON

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Co-opted—ENG.-VICE-ADL. SIR GEO. GOODWIN, K.C.B.

PAY REAR-ADL. H. S. MEASHAM, MR. BARNES

### Hon. Consulting Physician,

DR. A. S. NORMAN L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

### Hon. Medical Officers,

The Hon. Medical Staff consists of the Medical Officers of the District.

### Hon. Dental Surgeon,

### Hon. Masseuse,

MR. P. P. DAVIES, L.D.S., R.C.S., ENG. MISS D. L. BALDOCK, C.S.M.M.G.

### Matron,

MISS WHITMELL

### Hon. Treasurer,

E. W. DEVONSHIRE, ESQ., Lloyds Bank Ltd., Havant

### Hon. Solicitor,

### Hon. Auditor,

C. E. B. LONGCROFT, ESQ.

O. W. HORNE, ESQ., M.C., F.C.A.

### Hon. Secretary,

MISS E. K. STANDING, Laurel Bank, Orchard Road, Havant

### Assistant Hon. Secretary,

MISS W. G. POTTS

This League was set up about 1933 when two extensions with 15 beds were added by Messrs G. & R. Carrell. At the same time the original wards on the first floor were converted in to staff bedrooms. In 1935, to honour the Silver Jubilee of King George V, a children's ward was added. The architect was Mr Rogers, Mr Vernon-Inkpen having died in 1926, and the builders were Messrs Le Santo. The extension was modelled on the paediatric ward of St Thomas' Hospital in London, with ten panels of Royal Doulton tiles, designed by William Rowe, depicting nursery rhymes on the walls.

The *Hampshire Telegraph* reporting on the opening of the annual bazaar in aid of Havant Hospital in the summer of 1936 said:

*Mr C. E. B. Longcroft, (Chairman of the Hospital Committee) presided and ... reminded them that since the last year's bazaar the new extension had been opened, and was working very satisfactorily. Since the re-opening of the hospital there had been 109 in-patients and before that there had been from January 1st to the middle of June fewer than 100 in-patients. They would judge by that increase how the work and expenditure had increased, and how justified the new extension had been.*



Lorna, Countess Howe, opening a hospital fête with Major Lane, Mr Charles Longcroft and Mrs Lucy Paxton. *John Molloy.*

In 1939, the hospital was further extended, and an anaesthetics room was added '*by public subscription to the memory of the late Dr. Alexander Stewart Norman, honorary consulting surgeon*' as the plaque tells us. Dr. Stewart Norman was one of the great characters of Havant. He was known affectionately as '*the little doctor*' and he used to address everybody as '*my boy*' or '*my girl*' irrespective of age. He was the father of Dr. Burford Norman. By the time war came in 1939 Havant Hospital contained 23 to 25 beds and employed a staff of about nine regular nurses with many voluntary assistants. It was in full use throughout the war and numbered many service personnel amongst its patients. After the war, immediately prior to the National Health Service, a patient in a public ward would pay £3 per week for treatment and care.

### 1948 and After

The National Health Service Act of 1946 was not a sudden, fatal blow to voluntary hospitals by a hard-hearted, severely practical government. The whole period between the two wars was spent paving the way for it. The key word in this system of preparation was co-operation. Prior to the National Health Service the hospital scene in Britain was one of thousands of small hospitals working independently of one another where the local general practitioners performed all sorts of operations and next to nothing was provided in the way of specialist treatment.

In 1921 the Voluntary Hospitals Commission was set up. This divided England in to 46 areas. Voluntary Hospital Committees were appointed in 36 of these to encourage co-operation between hospitals, to organise contributory schemes and to investigate the needs of the hospitals in their areas. In 1929 the Local Government Act gave authorities wider powers to provide hospitals. It encouraged them to co-operate with the Voluntary Hospital Committees and this led to great improvements in many areas. These reforms were applauded in many magazines and newspapers including a survey of the British Health Services by the Political and Economic Planning think tank, which drew attention to the large number of different agencies which had:

*Come into being as a patchy improvisation without regard to any general scheme and bringing in its train overlapping, competition, S.O.S.s for funds and other evils with the result that the public is bewildered in a haze of services each working independently of the other.*

In 1938 the Emergency Medical Services were set up due to the threat of war, involving more co-operation between hospitals. In 1941 the report of the Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust stated:

*The distribution of consultants and specialists has been extremely unequal, in some areas there are many, if not enough, and in others few or none.*

So on July 5, 1948 the National Health Services Act, passed in 1946, came in to effect, transferring 2,800 hospitals (450,000) beds) to the control of the Minister of Health, Aneurin Bevan. The National Health Service was, in fact, despite all gloomy predictions, an immediate success. The Portsmouth Group Hospital Management Committee's report for the 1948–1958 period begins:

*The fifth day of July, one thousand nine hundred and forty-eight. For most of the people this was just another day: to some it was the day after the 172nd Anniversary of American independence. But for those concerned with the hospitals, it was a day of portent. Was it to be the first day of independence: or were hospitals to be henceforth governed by bureaucrats in remote control? Would there be a reduction in the standard of service; what would happen to the voluntary spirit so much a part of the hospital tradition of the country. The first ten years of the service have provided an adequate answer to all these questions, Despite completely new patterns of organisation, greatly expanded demands from the public, and the necessary of having to make-do-and-mend, a capable and enlightened service has been built up providing treatment of an excellence and scope barely contemplated in July 1948.*

Havant Hospital itself was handed over to the state free of debt, with equipment worth between £8,000 and £10,000 and a credit balance of £5,000 at the bank. At the last annual meeting of the committee, speeches of thanks were given to all who have contributed to the hospital, and it was announced that 6,000 patients had passed through the hospital since



opening. It was at this time a hospital solely used for general practice and minor operations. Since then it has been used for gynaecology and, more recently for geriatrics. There were twenty-five beds including three private beds and amenity beds. In 1949 510 inpatients and 637 outpatients were treated at Havant, although as yet no outpatient specialist clinic sessions were held there. In 1950 the Group Hospital Management Committee decided that this must be provided, and in 1951, 98 clinics were held. At this time, the hospital had a nursing staff of thirteen and domestic staff of six.

In June 1957 a casualty department, paid for entirely from legacy funds, was opened. This was staffed by General Practitioners on call. However, there was no X-ray department and patients requiring X-rays had to go to Emsworth or Portsmouth. 113 clinic sessions were held in this year and 573 in patients passed through the hospital. By 1958 the total number of beds had decreased to 23 while the staffing remained the same. In 1962 the operating theatre had to be modernised. This cost £2,005 of which the League of Friends paid half. In 1966 the Bernard Powell Memorial Annexe was added to the hospital in memory of Councillor Bernard Powell, a railway man and trade unionist and first Labour Chairman of the Havant and Waterloo Urban District Council. This addition consisted of a waiting room for relations of patients and for casualties awaiting treatment, and cost £2,600 of which the Regional Hospital Board paid half and the League of Friends paid the other half. Bentley's Ltd. of Havant agreed to do the electrical work free of charge as their contribution.

In 1968 the Ministry of Health proposed to discontinue the use of Havant Hospital for general hospital purposes on the grounds that it was becoming uneconomical to maintain small hospitals, and therefore everything should be concentrated on large centres and small hospitals should be closed down. This proposal aroused tremendous public feeling in Havant and a public meeting was called on Tuesday October 15, 1968 at the Town Hall to discuss the problem. The result of this meeting was that a letter signed by numerous residents was sent to the Ministry of Health and the plan was dismissed.

Today there are 25 beds in Havant Hospital. Three of these are private or amenity beds, four are officially gynaecological and post-operative beds, while the rest are still allocated to general practice. Between 1950 and a few

years ago, surgeons and consultants came up from Portsmouth once a week and four or five beds were allocated them, but now no operating is done at Havant except minor operations such as stitching cuts. The general practitioners of the area operate a duty rota for the casualty department.

### Personalities

This final chapter will be devoted to taking a closer look at some of the characters featured in this story. Miss Kate Standing, Honorary Secretary of the Hospital Committee until nationalisation was the daughter of Mr and Mrs George Standing. Mr Standing was a grocer who came originally from Steyning. Mrs Standing was a well-known philanthropist who, before the hospital project was started, used to visit the workhouse in Havant every Sunday afternoon taking groceries from their shop to the poor people. They were both ardent Methodists and were founder members of the Methodist Church in Bedhampton. Miss Standing's brother was the Revd George Standing, D.S.O., M.C., Chaplain to King George V and the Royal Household. He visited Havant regularly until his death and was a well-known figure at the Christmas parties, which the hospital gave for the families of all the staff. His family retained their grocer and pork butcher's business in North Street, Havant until the end of the 1960s.

When the Red Cross was formed in 1909, Mrs Lucy C. Paxton became Quartermaster and, soon after Commandant, a position which she held until 1925. She was in command of Langstone Towers Auxiliary Hospital from its opening in December 1914 to its closure in January 1919. At the closing of Langstone Towers, Mrs Paxton obtained permission to keep much of equipment and furniture which had been used in the hospital. She then wrote to the council proposing a cottage hospital as the town's war memorial. This proposal was put to the War Memorial Committee who voted in favour of it and the result was the War Memorial Hospital, which we see today. She presented the equipment in memory of her son. She was on the Hospital Committee from the very beginning until a year before her death in 1962 and was at the hospital for the presentation to a retiring porter just a few weeks before her fatal accident. Her son and daughter are still living in Havant. Miss Paxton has kept records of many of the events described in this history and still retains vivid memories of them.

Dr. Burford Norman, son of Dr. A.S. Norman died in 1954 in Kenya having left Havant not long before. Dr. M. Dewhurst, who joined the practice in 1927, is still living in retirement in Havant and the practice is now carried on by Dr. O'Flynn and his partners. The late Dr. J.R. Rickett had many connections with Havant Hospital and his practice is continued by Dr P.J. Fawkner-Corbett and his partners. When Miss Sarah L. Bannister, who turned the first sod on the site of the hospital, died shortly before her 104th birthday she was still writing her own Christmas cards.

### Conclusion

The story of Havant War Memorial Hospital is the story of the great generosity of the people of Havant, once a small market town, now a large area of housing and industrial estates. The general view among the older members of the community is that this generosity is a thing of the past, but there is evidence to show that this is not the case. The League of Friends, founded in 1962 by Mr Bernard Powell, has continued to provide equipment for the hospital and extra comforts for the patients. It has a present membership of about 200 and raises money by an annual subscription, jumble sales, wine and cheese parties, whist drives and an annual ball. As recently as August 1971 the Havant Lions Club raised £110 to buy an ambulift trolley for the hospital by collecting bottles for a bottle stall at the Brighton Carnival. They said afterwards that the response from the public was '*tremendous*'. When Havant Hospital was opened voluntary assistance was the sole means of support. Now it continues as a supplementary source of support, and enables the local people to continue their interest and pride in their own hospital.

Inevitably the National Health Service has altered the role of Havant Hospital since the existence of small general hospitals is incompatible with present-day medicine. However, Havant Hospital is still doing a valuable job in that it is a place where the general practitioners can keep their elderly patients for nursing and care. This role is becoming more and more important as life expectancy increases and elderly people no longer tend to live with their families.

Traditionally the Churches have been concerned with hospitals and the care of the sick and it is interesting that many of the people who have played a prominent part in the history of this hospital have been active members of local Churches. In the early years, the Standing family were prominent Methodists and more recently Mr Bernard Powell was a well-known Roman Catholic. The future of Havant Hospital has been uncertain since the outcry in 1968. It is becoming very uneconomical to keep Havant hospital in its present form. The cost at present is about £35,000 per year. However I do not think that Havant Hospital should be closed. It is my personal opinion that this great memorial to those who died in the First World War and to the generosity of the people of Havant should stand as a monument for future generations, performing its intended function and making a real endeavour to save life.

### Acknowledgements

I am grateful to Mr W. G. J. Thomas, Records Officer of Portsmouth Group Hospital Management Committee, Mr A. W. Garrett, Assistant Editor of the *Portsmouth Evening News* and *Hampshire Telegraph*, and Mr Ralph Cousins [senior], a local historian, for making information available to me. Dr. Michael Dewhurst, Dr. Peter Fawkner-Corbett and Mr Burrows kindly contributed many facts and reminiscences. Miss N. P. Paxton has been most generous with her time and interest has allowed me to use information from her scrapbooks. Finally I owe a great debt of thanks to Mr Clifford Stallard, who has taken an interest in this project throughout, has allowed me to copy documents and photographs, and has provided introductions to many of the people who have helped me.

### Addendum

Impressions on the collection of information for this history.

It has greatly surprised me during my research that although the life of Havant War Memorial hospital has taken place roughly within the last 50 years, there are no continuous records available. Although detailed records have been kept by the Group Hospital Management Committee Records Office since the inception of the National Health Service, they have no information about the years before 1948. The only records in the hospital

itself are the small commemorative plaques in some rooms. The information which I have obtained has largely come from old newspapers, and the memories and scrapbooks of the people concerned in the story and their descendants. Although the newspaper offices have kept copies it has not been possible to index all copies, and particular stories can only be found by knowing approximate dates and searching through all issues.

This article has been reproduced by kind permission of Dr. Giles Maskell whose father was a General Practitioner in Havant from 1936 to 1989. Giles is at present a Consultant Radiologist at the Royal Cornwall Hospital in Truro.

### The Final Days by Ralph Cousins

At first there was much sadness when it was announced that the hospital was to be closed, but it was realised that the building was no longer fit to be able to deliver the high standard of care required today. The last patient was discharged on 27 September 2011. However it had achieved over 80 years of dedicated and devoted service to local residents and has been a testament to the foresight those who met in 1919 to campaign for its creation. Although the hospital will be lost the money realised from its sale has will be reinvested in the new health facilities at Oak Park so the connection will remain and hopefully will be commemorated. No doubt the staff at there will provide the same high standard of care and attention that over the years thousands of patients have been used to receiving. At least their working conditions will be far superior than could be achieved in the old building. For many the Havant War Memorial Hospital has been a place where patients have been treated and been able to return home but for others it has been a place of comfort for them to pass their last days.

For myself my first visit there was in 1938 when I took off the top of one of my fingers, the one I am typing this with, in my mother's mangle. It was successfully stitched back on by Dr Jim Ricketts, who later saw war service with Tito's partisans in Yugoslavia. Other visits were for broken arms, scalding and severe cuts. My mother was carefully nursed before she died and my father spent much time there. Notably it was here in the early 1930s

when my father was recovering from having his appendix out my mother first kissed him – the rest as they say is history.

The League of Friends, latterly ably led by Mrs Vivienne Carrell, has continued to contribute many thousands of pounds for equipment and patient and staff comforts, the money being raised by holding various events and from the generous legacies left by grateful patients. Typical of this generosity was the wish of the late Betty Marshall, a lifelong supporter of the hospital who may well have attended its opening that donations in her memory should be made to the League of Friends instead of flowers.

At first it was feared the building and tiles would be lost but it has been purchased by Pinecourt Ltd. who have re-furnished and re-opened it as the Cross Way Care Home for dementia patients. The tiles were removed and restored by Heritage Tile Conservation Ltd. of Shropshire and are now in the care of the Hampshire County Council Arts & Museums Service. The £25,000 cost of this work was met by the Primary Care Charitable Trust and out of the proceeds of the sale of the site.



11 January 2013. Councillor Ralph Cousins re-opening the old hospital as The Cross Way Care Home. (Picture, *The News*.)

## The New Oak Park Hospital

Following considerable discussion with the local community NHS Hampshire has been working with local General Practitioners and NHS service providers to develop exciting plans for providing healthcare services in Havant and east Hampshire, which include the closure of Havant War Memorial Hospital.

The plans for the Oak Park site include jointly commissioning an Oak Park Health and Wellbeing Campus with Hampshire County Council. This development will include a new 60 bed nursing centre with 20 of these beds commissioned for reablement/intermediate care providing support for patients to regain independence.

Local General Practitioners and clinicians are working together to develop a new model of care for reablement/intermediate care. Instead of waiting until the new nursing centre facility is ready in 2014 we will jointly commission with Hampshire County Council a total of 20 reablement/intermediate care beds in nursing homes in the Havant area. These beds will replace the beds at Havant War Memorial Hospital which will close and means we can introduce the new model of care much sooner.

As part of our discussions about Havant War Memorial Hospital we have been considering the future for the nursery rhyme tiles and of the original foundation stone, which are highly valued by local residents. We have been discussing the relocation of the stone and will ensure it is included in the plans following the closure of the hospital if the building is to be demolished.

We have also been discussing the different options for moving the tiles with local residents including the League of Friends, Over 50s Forum, Hampshire Local Improvement Network (LINK) and local councillors. There are two issues that need careful consideration in potentially moving the tiles. The first is the cost of removing them, particularly at a time when the NHS must be cautious in its expenditure. We have asked a specialist company for an estimate on removing the tiles from the wall and this is in the region of £20,000 for removal, restoration, mounting and framing. The second issue is the size of the panels as they are very big and would require a large amount of free space to display. There are 10 panels and each one measures 39½ by 23½ inches and contains 24 tiles.

The Steering Group, which has representation from local councillors, Hampshire LINK, Havant War Memorial Hospital League of Friends and Emsworth Cottage Hospital League of Friends, welcomes any suggestions as to the future of the tiles, which would be carefully considered. In addition we are also working with Hampshire County Council to include the requirement to place one of the panels as part of the wider Oak Park development plans once we have a preferred bidder.

Inger Hebden. Director of Capital Planning. NHS Hampshire.

*Havant*  
*: Sportsmen's Committee :*



*Programme of*  
*Comic Football Matches*

**In Havant Park**

Boxing Day,

**Wednesday, December, 26th**  
**1934**

In aid of,

**The Havant War Memorial Hospital**



The Elite Printing Co. (T. H. Phillips), Havant.



# Programme.



9.45 a.m. The Meet of the Sportsmen at "The Star Meadow."

10 a.m. Procession headed by the Havant British Legion Silver Band via Waterloo Road, Beechworth Road, East Street, West Street, Staunton, Road, Crossways, Boundary Way, West Street, North Street, Market Lane to Havant Park.

10.45 a.m. Photographs of The Sportsmen taken by Mr. J. Marshall, of Waterlooville.

11 a.m. Mr. G. R. Standing will kick-off the Semi-final round between —

## **Borstal Nomads v. Dartmoor United.**

### **Borstal Nomads.**

#### **Digger Reeves**

Turnip Maskell

Cruiser Outen

Admiral Rice

Judge Cousins K.C.

"Jolly" Simmonds

H.U.D.C. Robins News of the Ward

Chippy Davis

Hardware Rennie

Trouble Hart



#### **Sir Cecil S. Allen D.W.**

Parcel Purse

Rump Drury

Feathery Ralph

Carter Clapham

Skinney Fry

Just-Wed-Outen

Steak Drury

Ever-Ready Dolley

Drummer Newell

Tush Yalden

### **Dartmoor United.**

**CAPTAINS:—**Judge Cousins, K.C., and Drummer Newell.

**REFEREE:—**Smew Dridge

**LINESMEN:—**Dusty Baker and B'Limey Wareham

Mrs. C. A. Collingwood will kick-off the Semi-final Round  
between :—

## **Pentonville Wanderers v. Wormwood Roughs**

**Pentonville Wanderers.**

Curly Vine

Battery Carpenter

Yokel Windibank

Banana Monk

Steamy Rackham

Tanner Parvin

Let-Er-Stockley

Press Baker

Bloater Wood

Milky Cousens

St. David Hinsley



Oakie Sadler Wag Yalden Sweeper Young Panther Moore Batter Peters

Chunk Reeves

Rasher Hodges

Smacky Dridge

Nobby Clarke

Scottie Parvin

Reverend Wren

**Wormwood Roughs.**

CAPTAINS :—St. David Hinsley and Smacky Dridge.

REFEREE :—Doctor Bateman.

LINESMEN :—Rambler Young and Brickey Ward.

Miss Kate Standing will kick-off the Final Round.

REFEREE :—Nurse Parvin

LINESMEN :—Foden Davis and Waterman Guy

RESERVES for football :—Bricky Ward, Scrub and Convict, Brush Rixon, and Check Selway

TRAINERS :—Medlar Plumstead, Still-Lemon Crassweller, Blow-lamp Palmer and Mammy Clutterbuck



12.45 a.m. Sportsmen assemble in the Pavilion for the presentation, &c., of Trophies by Mr. C. E. B. Longcroft (chairman to the Havant War Memorial Hospital).

**GOD SAVE THE KING.**



Comic football matches, Boxing Day 1934..





A Boxing Day 'Top Hat' old fashioned cricket match Frank Stockley, J. Carpenter, Bill Monk, Basil Cousins, M. Parvin, A. Dridge, Mr Bateman (umpire), J. Peters (batting).

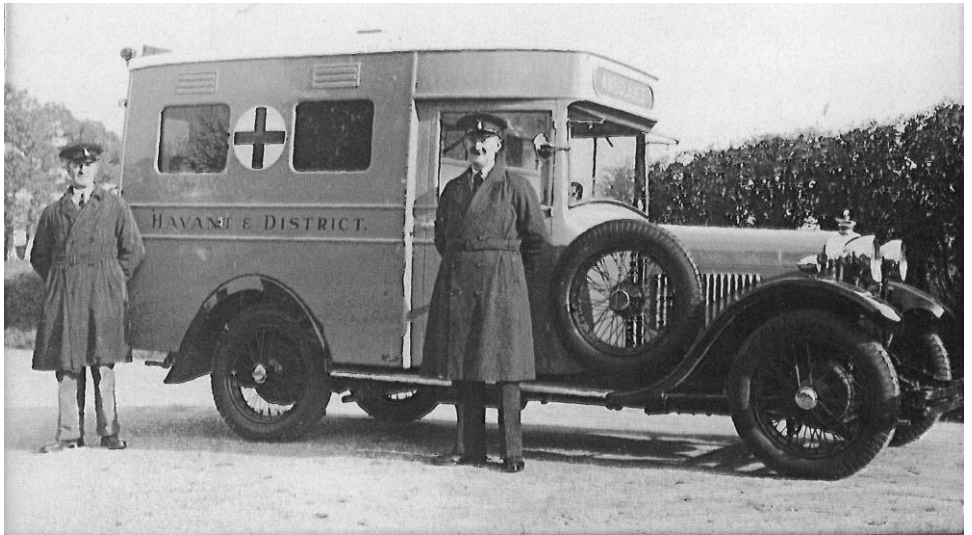


Nursing staff at the Havant War Memorial Hospital, Christmas 1945.

## Early Havant ambulances.



Renault purchased second hand from the Metropolitan Asylums Board in May 1927. Driver Harry Beach was Mrs Paxton's chauffeur.



Red Cross Sunbeam ambulance with Bert Combes and Harry Beach, October 1933.

# The fighting Services of Havant Salute

**Mrs Burchell**

"AND NOW IT WILL  
BE COMFORTS FOR  
THE SERVICE BOYS  
OF HAVANT"



Cartoon drawn by Basil Cousins in 1944 to recognise Mrs Edie Burchell's efforts in raising £2.000 for the hospital by her whist drives.

Before the War Memorial Hospital was built, Sunday fundraising parades by Friendly Societies were held to support the Emsworth and Portsmouth Hospitals. This parade was held on Sunday, 5 August 1906.



Parade passing the workhouse in West Street.



Parade at Bedhampton level crossing.

# William Rowe

## Ann Griffiths



William Rowe at the age of 68. It was at about this time he designed the Havant tiles. *(Photograph published courtesy of his two grandsons).*

William was born in Clapham in 1868, the younger son of William R A Rowe, a steel engraver for Wilkinson Sword and a designer of heraldic seals and coats of arms. After a period at the Lambeth School of Art, William junior was taken on by Doulton and Co, at the age of 15. He stayed with the company for fifty-six years and became one of their principal artists involved in the design and painting of ceramic tiles. He often collaborated with other artists on major works, such as the nursery rhyme tile panels for St Thomas's Hospital in London.

In 1988 *The Times* carried the following report. "A Doulton tile panel of Puss-in-Boots, designed to cheer up children at St Thomas' Hospital and removed during demolition work in the 1970s, will return to the hospital after its purchase at Christie's yesterday. It was designed by William Rowe in 1903 and shows Puss-in-Boots presenting a dead rabbit to the king and queen."

In 1935 William was asked to design ten nursery rhyme tile panels for Havant War Memorial Hospital's King George V Children's Jubilee Ward. Each panel was made up of 24 tiles, one being signed WR Doulton Lambeth.

In his spare time William loved to draw and paint in oils or water colours. He also sang in the church choir. In 1897 William married Frances Cross and in 1900 they settled in Barnes, where they lived with their two children. William died in 1955 and Frances died three years later.





William Rowe at his easel. *Photograph published courtesy of his two grandsons.*



Old King Cole  
was a merry old Soul

Old King Cole was a merry  
old soul  
And a merry old soul was he;  
He called for his pipe, and he  
called for his bowl  
And he called for his fiddlers  
three.



Here we go gathering  
Nuts in May

Here we go gathering nuts in  
May,  
Nuts in May, nuts in May,  
Here we go gathering nuts in  
May,  
On a cold and frosty  
morning.



Little Miss Muffet  
sat on a tuffet

Little Miss Muffet sat on  
a tuffet  
Eating her curds and whey,  
Along came a spider,  
Who sat down beside her  
And frightened Miss Muffet  
away.



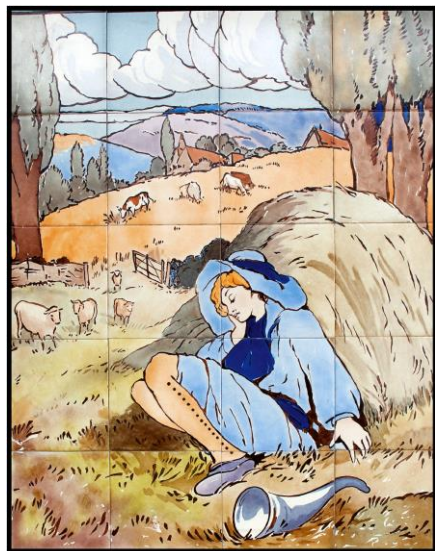
Old Mother Hubbard  
went to the Cupboard

Old Mother Hubbard  
Went to the cupboard  
To get her poor dog a bone,  
When she got there  
The cupboard was bare  
So the poor little dog  
had none.



See	-	Saw
Margery		Daw

See-saw Margery Daw  
 Johnny shall have a  
     new master  
 He shall earn but a  
     penny a day  
 Because he can't work  
     any faster.



Little	Boy	Blue
Come	blow	up your horn

Little Boy Blue,  
 Come blow your horn,  
 The sheep's in the meadow,  
 The cow's in the corn;  
     Where is that boy  
 Who looks after the sheep?  
     Under the haystack  
     Fast asleep.





Little Jack Horner  
sat in a Corner

Little Jack Horner  
Sat in the corner,  
Eating his Christmas pie;  
He put in his thumb,  
And pulled out a plum,  
And said: 'What a good  
boy am I!'



Ding Dong Bell  
Pussy's in the Well

Ding, dong, bell,  
Pussy's in the well.  
Who put her in?  
Little Johnny Flynn.  
Who pulled her out?  
Little Tommy Stout.



Little	Bo-Peep
has lost	her Sheep

Little Bo peep has lost  
 her sheep  
 And doesn't know where  
 to find them.  
 Leave them alone and  
 they'll come home,  
 Bringing their tails  
 behind them.



Mary, Mary,
quite contrary

Mary, Mary, quite contrary,  
 How does your garden grow?  
 With silver bells, and cockle  
 shells,  
 And pretty maids all in a row.



Sister Ann Dalby at work in Warblington Ward.





Warblington Ward.



1980. Schoolboy friends and First World War veterans John Tull, Ralph Cousins and Fred Longman spend some of their last days in the comfort of the hospital. They said *the staff could not be kinder and the food is beautiful*.



## Tile Panels Launch Event – 6 September 2013

### Comments

Ann Dalby

I worked at Havant War Memorial Hospital as the clinical manager from 1992–2000. I can provide some background information about the tiles and contribute some stories about what the older patients, who were nursed in the ward where the tiles were, used to say they remembered about the tiles or the hospital, as well as contributions from their parents and families.

Although it seemed inappropriate to have such childish images in a ward for adults and older people, many of the older people expressed what comfort the tiles brought them through their local connections and recollections.

On one occasion the tiles had a lucky escape when the Estates Department wanted to plaster them over in order to fit new equipment. Fortunately we persuaded them they were too valuable to risk being damaged.

Chris Davies

As a grandson of one of the volunteers who raised funds for the construction of the hospital (Philip Percival Davies), and as a short-term patient recovering from a hip replacement in 2000, I have a minor connection with the hospital, and regard the nursery rhyme tiles as part of the history of the town. I believe they should be kept permanently on display in Havant if possible.

Lucy Flannery

It's wonderful to see the local treasure so beautifully restored and giving pleasure to the local community again.

Pam Wilkins

My late mother, Betty Marshall, would have been so pleased to see the tiles have been restored. I hope they will eventually be displayed in Havant.

Heather Furze Gosport

The tiles look lovely. Well done for preserving them for future generations. I trained as a nurse at St Thomas's Hospital in London where they have the preserved Doulton tiles from one of the children's wards. I think they are a little earlier, but still portray fairytales.

Sylvia Price

I was four years old when I was a patient in this hospital (1951). I had asthma and became critically ill, and I was placed in an oxygen tent. My bed was by a window beside the railway line, and the trains coming past frightened me. One night I must have kept a lady patient awake with my crying; she told me if I was good girl and kept quiet, there would be a surprise for me the next day. I woke to find a bar of chocolate on my bedside cabinet. The ward smelled of disinfectant, and my parents who lived in the Nissen huts borrowed an old pram to take me home, as we had no car or money for a taxi. I remember it as if it was yesterday.

David Price

In the 1950s my local doctor (Dr O'Flynn) sent me aged 12 to Havant Hospital so he could remove a nasty boil from my right arm. He came into the hospital, removed his jacket, rolled up his sleeves and put on a red rubber apron. I was given a quick sniff of gas from a rubber mask, and was drifting in and out of sleep. He did the op, woke me up with a gentle slap, and put his jacket back on; then he called my mum in, gave me a sweet and sent me home.

In 2002 my dad went into Havant Hospital; it was his last fight for life. Thank you for looking after him.

John Matthews Born 1933

I went into the hospital as an emergency, and had my operation to the sounds of doodlebugs flying overhead. Good to see the tiles again. I was about ten years old!

Audrey Fryer, Born 1935

In December 2011 – a very icy period – I was cared for for two weeks in the former children's ward. The delightful nursery rhyme tiles were great joy. The elderly lady in the next bed had watched the hospital being built. She had been a Miss Carroll; her father was the architect and builder. She was sad that we were almost the last patients.

Val Croft

Wonderful to see the Nursery Rhyme Tiles on display at the Spring. So professionally displayed and preserved. I have memories of them at Havant Hospital and of the many duties I performed during my nursing career. Well done to everyone concerned in preserving them – great to see them being loved and looked after.

Rose and Jim Molloy

My cousins are the grandchildren of William Rowe and it is wonderful that the tiles have been saved. I also remember them from when I did a 'Back to Nursing' course at the hospital.

Jenny Hiscock Hayling Island

I'm so glad to see the tiles saved and so nicely displayed.

Brendan Gibb Gray, Councillor Emsworth

I was a constant visitor/patient in Havant Hospital during the 40s and early 50s. It was a wonderful and caring place where doctors and nurses took personal care of ? children like me in the ward.

The tiles are now a memory, but hark back to a time of innocence and use of the imagination. The one that remains in my mind is 'See-Saw Margery Daw'. May all these wonderful works of art remain in Havant!

Tessa Daines

It is very important that nursery rhymes continue to be taught to our children. Many of them are very old and recall parts of our history which are now only recorded in these stories.

Gillian Peskett

As a result of falling off my fairy cycle at the age of five and badly injuring my face, I was taken into Havant Hospital by a passing stranger, while my mother continued to Bedhampton with my brother on the back of her bike. That was in 1950. I remember thinking that the tiles were lovely and comforting as a nurse puffed antiseptic powder all over my face.

Nicholas and Diana Rowe

I just remember my grandfather, William Rowe, and it's wonderful that Havant has saved these tiles. He spent his whole life painting, both at Doultons and as a hobby, and these nursery rhyme tiles really were the pinnacle of his career. We were delighted that we were able to be here at the opening of the exhibition, representing a family who are all very proud of their grandfather.

Ursula Chase

I worked at HWMH for 31 years from 1980, and have fond memories of the tiles and the patients who were nursed in the ward. I was a member of the League of Friends who were striving to preserve the tiles. I am so glad they have been preserved and mounted to go on show in Havant.

Russell

I saw the tiles in the hospital and it is a great shame that it closed. The Royal Portsmouth Hospital tiles are in the City Museum. They look very nice and it is great to see that they have been saved.

John Molloy

I was so bored when I was in there that I passed the time by counting all of the letters under the tiles.

# Heritage Tile Conservation Ltd.

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"MIDSUMMERS NIGHT'S DREAM" One of two pictorial tiled panels restored and mounted for a private client, New York.  
From a series of eight panels decorated by Alexander Gibbs, London Circa 1865. Size: 1.6m x 0.8m

MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF ROMAN MOSAICS.

Heritage Tile Conservation Ltd specialise in the restoration of architectural ceramics and glass:- pictorial tile panels; geometric, encaustic and mosaic pavements; wall mosaic and tiling, and faience facades.

We undertake restoration work in situ or at our well equipped workshop, where we have pioneered the development of specialised techniques for the swift, safe and efficient removal of architectural material wherever this proves necessary.

Ceramic and glass material can be cleaned and restored; and either mounted and framed for display or reinstated. Replacement material can also be supplied to match the original.



Opus Sectile Panels, removed, restored and reinstated for Holy Rood Church, Barnsley, Yorkshire.  
Manufactured by Whitefriars Glass Works Circa 1900.

Removal, restoration and fixing of 50 Nursery Rhyme tiled Panels.	Client: Guy's Hospital.
Removal, restoration and refixing of geometric and encaustic tiled pavement.	Client: Bloxwich Hospital.
Removal, restoration and reinstatement of Minton tiled interior of Bishop Selwyn Tomb.	Client: Lichfield Cathedral.
Removal, restoration and refixing of glass and ceramic mosaic Birmingham College of Art.	Client: Birmingham City Council.
Removal, restoration and refixing of Opus Sectile Panels.	Client: Holy Rood Church Barnsley.
Removal of 20 Minton tiled panels.	Client: People's Palace Museum, Glasgow.
Restoration of geometric pavements. Foreign Office, Whitehall, London.	Client: PSA.
Removal, restoration and refixing of early 18th Century English Delft tiles.	Client: Chatham Historic Dockyard.
Removal and restoration of faience archways and stairwell. Basildon House, London.	Client: Trafalgar House Plc.





Dividing the panel into individual tiles.





Removing the cement from the back of a tile.



Sally is removing discoloured grout from the edges of the tiles.





One of six groups of Royal Doulton tile panels at the Tanjong Pagar Railway Station in Singapore which depict rustic scenes from rural Malaya and Singapore. This group shows Copra growing.

THIS STONE WAS LAID BY  
MAJOR-GENERAL  
THE RIGHT HON. J.E.B. SEELY.  
C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.,  
HIS MAJESTY'S LIEUTENANT  
OF THE COUNTY OF SOUTHAMPTON.  
11<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 1928.

Hospital foundation stone.

,

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The Spring Arts and Heritage Centre, East Street, Havant.



**Hampshire**  
County Council

**Havant**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL